# Saipan Tribune Saipan Tribune THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**THURSDAY** FEBRUARY 27, 2014

>> Police still classify

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### **OPINION METER** This week's poll:

Should large businesses be required to hook up to the CUC grid?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

### NSIDE

#### **NATION**



A couple stumbles upon \$10 million worth of rare gold coins.

**➤ PAGE 17** 

### LIFE & STYLE



Neighbors foil an attempt to steal a painting by graffiti artist Banksy.

➤ PAGE 20

# Couple died of fire inhalation

case as double n autopsy has deterhomicide mined that the couple whose bodies were found in the charred remains of their house in As Gonno both died due to asphyxiation from soot and carbon monoxide inhalation as a result of the fire. See COUPLE on Page 4

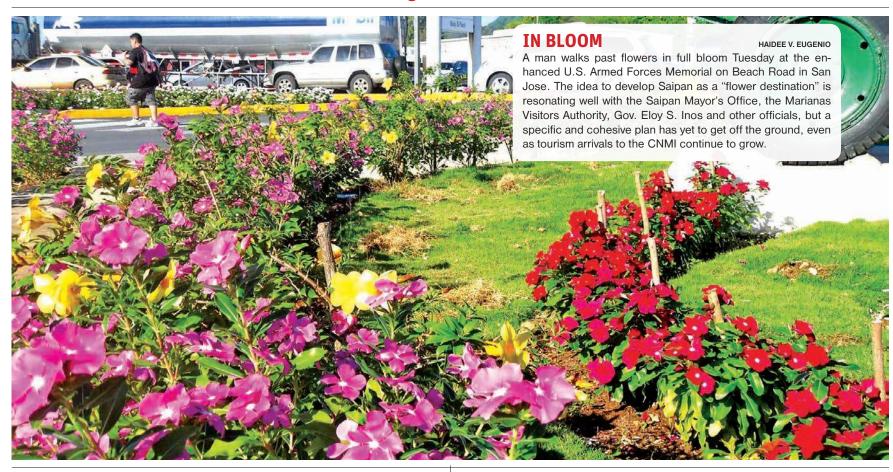
### 'No Republican primary'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Republican Party will not be holding a primary to choose a candidate for governor and lieutenant governor because the GOP already endorsed

in September the candidacies of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), sources said, after the GOP's meeting last night to decide on former governor Juan N. Babauta's request for an open primary.

See PRIMARY on Page 4



### Inos asked anew to 'bring Fitial to justice'

>> Senate president says he supports 'people's mandate'

» OPA's Hasselback: **Arrest first before** extradition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting House speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that Gov. Eloy S Inos' statement that the process for international extradition is a function of the federal government-not the local gov-

See INOS on Page 4

### E Land's MRI unveils today plans for Palms Resort

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. will unveil today its renovation plans for the former The Palms Resort, two weeks aftrying to bring in a "global brand" for date a growing number of tourists.

MRI chief operating officer Taeho Kim, through his office, invited the media to a 10am briefing today at the chapel area "on the upcoming renovation plans for Palms Resort Saipan site."

This comes at a time when the CNM ter telling Gov. Eloy S. Inos that they are needs more hotel rooms to accommo-

See E LAND on Page 4

PSS gets new 5-year accreditation with NCA. PAGE 2 Mobil's contract with CUC expiring in April. PAGE 5



# PICKS OF THE WEEK

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### Local

### PSS gets new five-year accreditation with NCA

» COE: Accreditation

in public schools

happens every day

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System has obtained another fiveyear term with its accrediting body and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan attributes this to the fact that "accreditation happens every day in public schools."

The North Central Association informed PSS on Feb. 20 that it is giving the CNMI a full five-year accreditation term, or until 2020. This makes the system the first institution in the Pacific to be granted a full accreditation term as a school dis-

trict—including all its schools, central offices, and the Board of Education

Sablan shared with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday her elation over this recent achievement.

"Accreditation happens every day in all our schools. The

school improvement is a process that is supposedly continuous and that's what we're doing as a system. We don't wait for every year to do our report. If we have specific concerns, we report and address it today... and that's the beauty about our

accreditation under NCA," Sablan said.

She emphasized that with the accreditation process an ongoing concern in each school's daily operation, this makes the

school district more prepared for the periodic review and

visit of the commission.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, or NCA, also known as the North Central Association, is a membership organization consisting of colleges, universities, and schools in 19 U.S. states that is

engaged in educational accreditation. It is one of six regional accreditation bodies in the U.S. and its Higher Learning Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

PSS used to obtain its accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which grants accreditation terms to individual schools. The BOE and PSS decided to shift to NCA in January 2012 and ties with WASC was formally cut in June 2012.

The NCA accreditation process involves five standards and each standard includes a "checklist" of things that need to be achieved. WASC, meantime, has four standards.

According to Sablan yesterday, PSS ranked "very high" in all these standards, resulting in the granting of the maximum five-year term. She specifically cited the overwhelming rating accorded PSS in the governance and leadership aspect as well as the direction and purpose of the system as a whole.

An NCA team inspected PSS on Oct. 4-9 last year. In the team's exit report, members recommended the maximum term for PSS to the full commission.

Sablan said that PSS and the Board of Education are very pleased with the decision and have vowed to maintain the quality of service it provides to schoolchildren on three islands.

"In any school district there

are opportunities to grow and PSS is one that is progressive and always looks for ways to improve and grow," she said.

According to Sablan, decisions being made each day in schools—whether about resources, staffing, or instructional matters—relate to "accreditation."

If there are areas that Sablan believes needs further enhancement, it's the resources and technology.

"The highlight really is: we have a strong purpose, direction, and governance in our system," she said, adding that the visiting team saw a lot of systematic collaboration where everybody works together, making sure there is alignment from the school level to the central office.

### 'Random drug test policy is fully adhered to within PSS'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.co

If other government departments and entities are failing to conduct random drug testing among their employees, that is not the case with the Public School System.

Saipan Tribune learned that just recently, a handful of employees of the CNMI Public School System—mostly its top officials—went through random drug testing.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed that drug testing is a normal procedure in the school system and that they faithfully adhere to the policies, rules, and regulations of the State Board of Education.

"That testing is a normal procedure for us because, in PSS, we do have policy in place that mandates a random drug testing every calendar year," explained Sablan. A calendar year is from January to December.

For Sablan, anybody in charge of schoolchildren can be subjected to random drug tests, as required by the system policy.

"It's not just in PSS but everywhere. If you look at the employment requirements for a government employee, the said test is required," she said.

Under the statute, random drug testing in autonomous agencies is shouldered by the agency's own revenues and budget, compared to non-autonomous departments that rely on funding for this purpose on the general fund.

It was recently disclosed that in the past year or so, no government agency had undergone random drug tests because of the lack of funds to do so.

### Phased rollout of new veterans health ID cards begins this Feb.

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Veterans Affairs is undergoing a phased rollout of a newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Card.

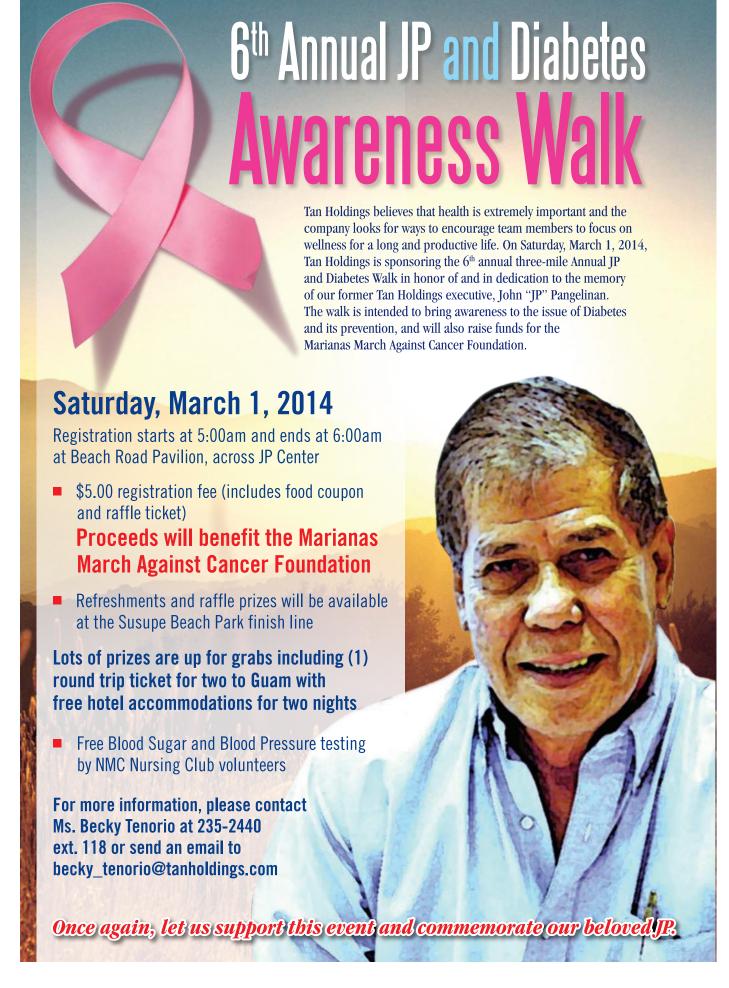
These cards have additional security features and will have a different look and feel. Similar to a regular health insurance card the card also acts as a Veterans Health Identification Card. The VHIC displays the veteran's member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the veteran's enrollment in VA health care.

"Our Veterans are truly beginning to benefit from remarkable changes in their benefits and services," said Guam Sen. Frank B. Aguon Jr. "The rollout of these new insurance cards is a testament to our federal Department of Veterans Affairs' effort

**Guam**—The to modernize, improve, and ex-Veterans Af- pand services for all veterans."

> The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the veteran's branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use. An addition of "VA" in Braille will help visually impaired veterans and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions will also be placed on the cards. The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card, which was introduced in 2004. The issuing of these cards is a phased rollout and the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other veterans who have not been issued a VIC.

In early April, the VA will begin a three-month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. (PR)



### Man gets 2 years for repeatedly stalking estranged wife

his estranged wife despite a court order barring him from doing so was slapped with a maximum sentence of two

In a written order on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho directed Augustine B. Pangelinan

### Flores seeks share of bond funds

The Saipan Mayor's Office asked the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday for a share of the \$2.7 million bond funds and interest that Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said is available for appropriation.

In his letter to the delegation, Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores said, "Though we believe the agencies listed provide essential public services, we also believe the Office of the Mayor of Saipan should be among the agencies [that should get a portion of the funds]."

Inos earlier proposed to appropriate the funds to several Saipan projects, including \$600,000 to pave Kagman's roads; \$250,000 to buy two 66-passenger school buses for the Public School System; \$250,000 for the replacement of at least 50 hospital beds at the Commonwealth Health Center; and \$45,000 to build a Saipan Southern High School baseball field.

Flores pointed out, though, that his office fills the gaps left behind by the Department of Public Works and Division of Parks and Recreation.

"We continue to maintain and repair critical roadways to ensure the safety of our motorists," he said.

He said his office's scope of work includes clearing roadways of vegetation, filling of potholes, trenches, and others from rainstorm washouts and other causes that degrade the roads.

Flores also pointed out that neither DPW nor Parks and Recreation has dependable and reliable equipment to perform their individual statutory mandate to repair, maintain and improve all secondary roads.

He noted that a plan to privatize the services of Parks and Recreation is in the works and allocating \$200,000 to them "might not be a priority at this time, in our [Saipan Mayor's Office] opinion."

Flores also noted that his office has a tree-pruning program and the crew have been trained and certified in bucket truck safety operation.

"We do not need another

agency to own, operate, and maintain an additional bucket truck," Flores said. "We all know we lack equipment that are in good condition as all we have are hand-me-downs that are over three decades old.' (Jayson Camacho)

the possibility of parole. Pangelinan, 38, was given credit for time served.

Pangelinan pleaded guilty to two counts of violating a Superior Court order of protection issued in a Family Court matter.

According to the basis of the plea agreement that Pangelinan signed with the government,

tranged wife three times on Aug. 12, 2013, via telephone and in person, in violation of the court's order of protection.

On Aug. 13, 2013, Pangelinan attempted to contact the victim by appearing at her place of work. Two days later, Pangelinan tried to contact her again by appearing at her place of work twice.

linan tried to call the victim at her place of work and then later appeared there in person.

Two days later, he contacted the victim in person at I Love Saipan and at San Jose Church. The same thing happened on Nov. 5, 2013, when Pangelinan contacted the victim in person at Ever Clean Laundrymat in Kannat Tabla.

The following day, he called the victim at her place of employment and threatened to kill himself in front of her parent's house. That same day, he attempted to contact her by showing up at her home in Chalan Kiya three times and asking to speak with her.

On Jan. 8, 2014, Pangelinan repeatedly attempted to call the victim at her office, disturbing her and her co-workers. (Ferdie de la Torre)

### Alleged chief of 'ice' suppliers raises detention issue to the Ninth Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Xing Bo Fang, who is reportedly the No. I in command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan, has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the Ninth Circuit a federal court

order for his detention pending

trial of his case. Attorney David G. Banes, court-appointed counsel for Fang, filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a notice of ap-

peal to the Ninth Circuit. Banes also asked the federal court to provide him with a transcript of Monday's detention hearing. Once they have it, Banes plans to file a memorandum challenging the legal and factual basis of the detention order.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy ordered Fang's continued detention pending trial. Kennedy said the evidence shows there is no condition that will assure

Fang's appearance in court.

Kennedy said that Fang's offer of Carlos Torres as a thirdparty custodian does not rebut presumption of detention.

Kennedy pointed out that Fang lives alone and is jobless. She said he does not have enough economic, family, or social ties to the community that will ensure that he will show up in court for his trial.

The judge also noted that the case involves more than 100 grams of methamphetamine or "ice."

Kennedy said the weight of the evidence against Fang, including audio and video recordings of events, provided clear and convincing evidence that no condition of release will rea-

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sonably assure the safety of the ing to their confidential source, community.

Fang was among seven persons recently arrested for alleged distribution of "ice."

Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon disclosed in documents filed in court that during their operation against the 46-year-old Fang, they were able to seize 135.6 gross grams of substance that tested positive for "ice."

Gordon said the DEA Saipan Post of Duty initiated an investigation into Fang in July 2012 based on information received from a confidential source that the suspect is a large-scale meth distributor.

Gordon said that, accord-

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Fang is the leader of "ice" distributors on Saipan.

Fang is the alleged source of "ice" supply for several Chinese nationals, including Yu Hua Wang, who is the alleged second in command to Fang. Wang was also arrested in the operation. A complaint charged both with distributing "ice" on Dec. 27, 2013.



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### Rezoning of lots near planned hotel OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers passed yesterday a local bill rezoning from "village commercial" to "tourist resort" 12 lots adjacent to a new hotel that Saipan Surfrider LLC will develop at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and the former Silver Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-43 now goes to the governor for ac-

Saipan Surfrider LLC plans to develop a 60-room Surfrider Resort Spa and Beach in the area.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro answered questions of members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative gence and inquire more, and that all the lots be rezoned "tour-Delegation about the proposed rezoning, prior to the voting.

The two "no" votes were from Reps. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), both from Precinct 2, where the hotel development is located.

Demapan, in an interview after the local bill's passage, said "it doesn't make sense" to rezone the area to a "tourist resort" when there is a big hardware store and other types of businesses in the area.

He said his "no" vote is also based on the concerns of residents in the area.

"What I would hope to happen is perhaps we should get back again and do more dilimake it [local bill] a better product rather than what it is," he

Of the 17 Saipan delegation members who voted "yes," two said they were doing so "with reservation." They were Reps. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan) and Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan). Absent were House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

Triple J Enterprises earlier said the Surfrider project encompasses a total of seven separate lots, four of which are already zoned "tourist resort" and three are zoned "village commercial." For consistency among all seven lots, they asked

ist resort."

The company said consistency in zones would allow for better design integration of project components such as rooms, restaurants, parking, landscaping, swimming pool, beach club, spa, hotel gift shop, and other amenities.

#### Confirmed

In other news, the Saipan delegation confirmed by an 8-0 vote yesterday the governor's appointment of Joe Erra Ayuyu Jr. to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider is set to administer the oath of office to Ayuyu this afternoon on Capital Hill.

als vying for the governor's post,

Former House speaker Heinz

S. Hofschneider declared his

candidacy as an independent

on Monday, with Senate floor

leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan)

Ports Authority executive direc-

tor Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon

Guerrero, a Democrat, also con-

firmed he wants to run for gov-

A four-way race is expected to

result in a runoff election because

it would be difficult for any of the

candidates to get at least 50 per-

cent plus one of the votes cast in

Commonwealth

as his running mate.

ernor on Saturday.

the general elections.

Former

including Inos and Babauta.

### Guam girl, 14, missing since Tuesday last week

GUAM (Pacific News Center)— The FSM Consulate is seeking the public's help in finding a 14-year-old girl who has been missing for more than a week.

Acting FSM Consul General Robson Romolow said that the family of the girl had asked the FSM consulate to assist them in locating the girl. She is an FSM citizen, her name is Linore Sue Charlie and she just moved to Guam about four months ago from Kosrae.

Romolow said the Guam Police Department is lead-

ing the investigation but they have given the FSM Consulate permission to seek the public's help in finding the girl. She was last seen Tuesday last week when she left her apartment in Maite near the Kwang Hwa store where she was staying with her sister. She was last seen wearing a blue T-shirt and a purple skirt.

"We have been tasked and asked by the governor of the State of Kosrae to also assist and so we are working very closely with the police department here in Guam. They are very helpful," said Romolow.

### **E LAND**

From Page 1

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday he's hoping that E Land/MRI will announce 'specific" rather than general plans and timelines, not only for the renovation of the former The Palms Resort but also Coral Ocean Point, which sits on public land.

"If that's the case, we appreciate their willingness to be partners in the CNMI's economic recovery. We need more hotel rooms, more airline seats that will go a long way in helping our tourism industry, and the government is standing by to help," he told Saipan Tribune.

Manglona and Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) earlier asked the Department of Public Lands to look at the track record of E Land before DPL decides to negotiate either with E Land/MRI or the Hong

Kong-based Honest Profit Corp. for the lease of a San Antonio public land to develop a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

The senators are doubting the investor's ability to move forward with what the investor group earlier claimed is an initial \$4 million renovation of Coral Ocean Point as part of an estimated \$40 million, multiyear investment plan.

Reyes and Manglona said the government need not lease more lands to E Land if it is not going to use the property anyway.

Seong Min Kang, chief executive officer and president of E Land's Suwaso Corp./MRI met with the governor on Feb. 12 about their ongoing renovation of Coral Ocean Point and plans for reopening the former Palms Resort Saipan. But he declined to reveal those plans to the media at the time.

E Land/MRI also acquired Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

### PRIMARY

From Page 1

Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's public relations team, said the Republican Party will be sending today a formal response to Babauta's Feb. 21 letter, based on the results of last night's meeting.

"A GOP decision has been made in response to Mr. Babauta and Mr. [Juan] Torres' letter of intent and out of courtesy to them, the response decision will be transmitted [today]," Blanco told Saipan Tribune last night.

But sources said the decision is to not hold a primary, because of the Inos-Torres endorsement last year, which also followed the Covenant Party's merger with the Republican Party.

Babauta, who picked former senator Juan Sablan Torres as his running mate, said last night he would like to see the GOP's actual letter before making his next move.

He reiterated that he and Torres would like to be given an opportunity to be considered for an open primary election in the selection for candidate for governor and lieutenant governor.

"I am a lifelong Republican," he said. "If the party behaves by closing the doors of opportunity for other members in a way that

is unfair, the party loses somehow because there is dissension in the ranks, there is animosity within the ranks and some will call themselves independents. I am giving the party the opportunity to make a decision on a practice that holds the party together."

Babauta said "a party that stays together goes through the process together" and that the GOP should remain as "party of inclusion, not exclusion.'

As of last night, he said he has not decided yet whether to still run or not if and when the GOP formally declines his request for a primary.

There are at least four individu-

ton, D.C. for a series of meetings, issued a statement on Tuesday saying that "some local lawmakers are erroneously implying" that the process for international extradition is a func-

He said the special prosecutor-not the governor-"has to go through the federal Department of Justice, who then forwards it to the Department of State, who then makes a formal request to the Government of the Philippines."

Fitial is believed to be in his wife's hometown of Gapan in Nueva Ecija, a Philippine prov-

Inos said the resolution should direct the special prosecutor, not the governor, to initiate the nec-

Dela Cruz told Saipan Tribune that the federal government would not do anything if the CNMI government does not ask for help.

judge David Wiseman issued a warrant of arrest for Fitial on March 6, 2013, in connection with the criminal case against Buckingham, who was convicted and sentenced last week.

### COUPLE

From Page 1

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola, who conducted the autopsy on victims Guo Huang Xu and Qing Xiu Zheng Tuesday afternoon, was unable to find any evidence of blunt force trauma on the skull of Xu.

Hurst said that Espinola's conclusion rules out the investigators' initial finding that the 40-year-old Xu had signs of blunt force trauma on the head. Hurst said investigators initially believed that the victim suffered from blunt force trauma due to what appeared to be a wound on Xu's head.

Hurst said the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation still believes that arson was involved in the case.

"This case is also being treated as a homicide at this time," he said.

DPS is asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation or the DPS Commonwealth State Police Division.

Meanwhile, Qing Ying Zheng, the 43-year-old sister of victim Qing Xiu Zheng, appealed yesterday to DPS to solve the case.

Qing Ying Zheng, who is a manager of a store in Koblerville, said she and her brother Qing Shan Zheng, who is also a farmer, are hoping that police would allow them to see the victims' remains at the Commonwealth Health Center, now that the autopsy has already been completed.

It was Qing Shan Zheng, his wife, and son who first responded to the victims' house, located on Magisa Drive corner Empanada Lane, about four minutes after Xu called on the phone Sunday night, asking them to proceed to their house right away.

When the three arrived, the house was already engulfed in flames. They tried to douse the flames with water, but the fire was already too big. One of them then called 911.

Investigators retrieved the charred bodies from the house on Monday at noon. The house was razed to the ground. The couple's pickup truck was also burned.

The victims' two childrenages 5 and 13-are currently in Fujian Province, China.

**INOS** From Page 1

ernment—poses the question of whether Inos "is saying that he is unwilling to do anything" to bring back former governor Benigno R. Fitial to face the charges against him related to corruption.

"Is he confirming that he is doing absolutely nothing to bring former governor Fitial to justice?" Dela Cruz asked.

Dela Cruz said the CNMI people and House members who support the resolution know quite well that the governor "can take steps to help the process along."

"This of course assumes that he is inclined to do so. Since the issuance of the arrest warrant in March 2013, has Governor Inos lifted a finger this past year to assist the extradition process? Has the governor picked up the phone to see if he can be of assistance? What has Governor Inos done?" Dela Cruz asked.

The resolution that Dela Cruz and six other lawmakers prefiled on Monday requesting the governor to take the necessary steps for Fitial's extradition will be acted on during the House's tentatively set session on Tuesday.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday he supports the prefiled resolution, "to support what the people decide, the mandate of the people."

"Obviously I'm also in support of doing the right thing," Torres told reporters after a session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday.

Torres, Inos' running mate in the November gubernatorial elections, said the extradition process "is not that simple."

"I guess the first question is, has the request been made? If the request has been made, then let us follow through. If the request is not made, then... they have to look the process on that," the Senate president added.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback, meanwhile, said yesterday he cannot comment on this specific case at this time but as to the extradition process, he had this to say: "Generally speaking, extradition is a process to return somebody somewhere after they've been arrested and as far as I know, nobody has been arrested. Beyond that, I really don't have any comment specifically on this case because the case is still ongoing," Hasselback, special prosecutor, told Saipan Tribune.

Dela Cruz said he's glad that the governor agrees that "no one is above the law."

"But saying that he cannot negotiate with the Philippine government, that he must respect the Constitution, allow the

special prosecutor and the feds to do their job—all of that is just talk. And now he invites the Legislature to extend the same respect to the hardworking law enforcement authorities? Thank you for the invitation but where was the respect for the FBI at the airport? The governor should stop issuing invitations. That is how Fitial got this whole thing started in the first place," Dela Cruz said.

He said the resolution asks in a respectful manner "that the governor do what he can. Nothing more. Nothing less."

"Twenty three words: 'The House hereby requests that Governor Eloy S. Inos take the necessary steps for the extradition of former CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial.' Is that so hard to understand? If the governor sincerely believes that the law ties his hands to the extent that he will be ineffective, then I still respectfully maintain that he call up the relevant federal authorities. If he is willing to waste his breath lecturing the Legislature, why won't he waste his breath for a good cause bringing Fitial to justice?" Dela Cruz said.

He added that they are interested in the governor's actions, not his words.

"Lecturing the Legislature is a futile exercise that will accomplish nothing to get Mr. Fitial back home," he added.

Inos, while still in Washing-

tion of the local government.

ince north of Manila.

essary steps for extradition.

Superior Court associate

Fitial resigned from office on Feb. 20, 2013, after being impeached by the 18th House of Representatives for 18 articles of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. He stepped down days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

### Mobil's contract with CUC expiring in April

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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With its current contract with its fuel vendor expiring in April, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. proposes to enter into a new fouryear contract with a fuel supplier.

CUC issued a request for proposal for the supply and delivery of fuel for power generation. The deadline for submission of bids was on Feb. 6.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told Saipan Tri-

### **RFP** for proposed four-year fuel contract out CUC bares \$7.5M owed its fuel supplier

bune that no vendor has been expiring on April 30 this year. selected as of yesterday.

"We have an RFP out, and it does provide for a four-year contract. No vendor selection has been made," he said.

According to Warren, CUC has been contracting Mobil as its fuel supplier since at least 2005. Saipan Tribune learned that the company's contract is The proposal to get a new

fuel supplier must first be approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

The CPUC earlier disclosed that CUC has notified the commission of its intent to contract for a four-year supply of fuel oil at projected ratepayer expense of \$300 million. As part of the

proposed contract, the supplier will be expected to loan CUC \$7.5 million to retire obligations to the current fuel supplier.

This amount has been owed for many years. CUC feels that the elimination of this obligation would allow for more competitive fuel procurements," Warren earlier said.

Yesterday, Warren said that

price tag for the contract.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC currently buys about 18 million gallons of fuel every year. Over a four-year period, these 72 million gallons of fuel is expected to cost about \$300 million. CUC operates three power plants, which are all oilfueled diesel engines.

Each year, CUC's fuel cost totals about \$60 to \$65 million. The cost to customers is represented in the LEAC, which stands for lev-

the \$300 million is not a fixed elized energy adjustment clause, the component of the customer's bill that represents the agency's expenses on fuel. The other component is base rate, which represents CUC's non-fuel cost.

CUC earlier said that it projects to incur this fiscal year a slightly higher fuel cost. Just for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014—from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013—the agency already spent \$16.9 million for fuel. It was disclosed that the average weekly expense for fuel is \$1.25 million.

### scholars SHEFA runs after defaulted

### >> Rasa says every single recipient being accounted, tracked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance's board and management have taken a strong position to go after defaulted scholars and collect the funds due the scholarship program.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa disclosed that since she came into office, she created a process that would fully monitor the status of all scholars, including the payments due the agency.

"Every single recipient is now accounted for. The second process is tracking these students in order to see exactly how many are in compliance and how much really is in default," said Rasa.

Rasa told Saipan Tribune that she could not immediately specify the potential amount that may be collected from defaulted scholars or how many defaulted scholars there are, pending the completion of the final report.

She described their efforts as a "work in progress" but agreed that the agency has a large number of defaulted scholars who are liable to repay the awards they received from SHEFA.

"We don't have those numbers yet because it's a work in progress right now. But each week, the office staff is issuing 10 to 20 letters—after auditing the students' files-for compliance," said Rasa.

She noted that progress is being noted in the collection from these defaulted scholars. For instance, from just \$600 expected collections for January, SHEFA actually collected about \$800 for that month after two defaulted scholars started paying their dues.

"We got new people paying," said Rasa.

She encouraged defaulted scholars to come in and arrange a payment plan with SHEFA.

Based on the SHEFA's amended rules and regulations, the agency can refer defaulted scholars to the Office of Attorney General for legal proceedings.

Under SHEFA rules, grant recipients must return to the CNMI and find a job here whether in government or the private sector—within three months after they finish their studies. If they fail to finish their studies, they are consid-

awarded with interest. ered in default. Similarly, if they

graduate and fail to return to the CNMI, they are also in default. If a former recipient decides to remain and work abroad three

months after completing or terminating their college studies, that grant assistance automatically converts into a loan. When this happens, the grant recipient

must repay SHEFA the amount

Meantime, Rasa disclosed that, after clarifying from Finance Department, it was learned that collections from defaulted scholars will go directly to the "awards account" of SHEFA. The clarification was sought after the SHEFA asked if this collection can be used for operational expenses.

Based on SHEFA's annual report for 2012, repayment collections from 2004 to 2012 totaled only \$17,356.

### Motion: Guam jurors posted details of trial on Facebook

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Two men and a woman convicted of running a meth ring in Guam are asking for a new trial because of allegations jurors ignored instructions not to discuss the case.

month, a defense attorney alleges several jurors spoke about the case, including posting details about the trial on Facebook.

After a four-month trial, jurors found Rudy Sablan, Maria Edrosa and Mateo Sardoma guilty in October of running a ring that smuggled crystal meth into Guam.

The court filing includes screenshots of a juror's Facebook page and transcripts of phone calls another juror made with a woman in the same detention center as Edrosa, the Pacific Daily News reported.

Attorney Louie Yanza filed the motion for a new trial on behalf of Sablan in November.

It alleges jurors "blatantly ignored" instructions not to discuss the case.

The filing says a juror posted on Facebook comments such as, "Your guilty son LMAO," and "Why in the world would the In the motion unsealed this District Court of Guam choose me to be a part of jury duty.

That juror is also accused of not disclosing she had a friend in the U.S. Attorney's office.

The motion references "extraneous prejudicial information," saying another juror spoke with the woman in the detention center about the trial and the evidence. The motion quotes the juror as saving, "I don't think [the] government has [expletive] on them even though I think they're guilty." He called the case "shoddy police work."

The U.S. Attorney's office in Guam didn't immediately respond to an after-hours phone message seeking comment by The Associated Press.



### Public warned of high surf, large waves, strong winds

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a high surf advisory yesterday to warn the public of hazardous surf of 10 to 13 feet along east facing reefs through Friday night.

Combined seas of 12 to 15 feet and strong northeast winds are expected through Friday. Meanwhile, a shear line will bring scattered showers to the region through Thursday night. For Friday through the weekisolated thunderstorms are ex- the next couple of days. Winds pected as a tropical disturbance northwest of Chuuk moves slowly west.

The high surf advisory remains in effect for east facing reefs until noon Saturday. Surf should subside below 12 feet during the day Saturday.

A small craft advisory also remains in effect until noon Saturday. Seas of 12 to 15 feet and winds of 25 to 30 knots will produce hazardous conditions

and seas should diminish on Saturday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east fac-

Meanwhile, strong northeast winds are expected through Friday. The National Weather Service in Guam has issued a wind advisory for the Marianas that is in effect from 6am

Northeast winds of 25 to 35 mph with higher gusts are expected through the day Thursday. Winds will subside to 20 to 25 mph by Thursday night.

Winds of 25 to 35 mph can

make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. Use extra caution. Secure any lightweight outdoor furniture. Make sure tarps, trash cans, and other light outdoor items are well secured. (PR)



day and Wednesday nights. The upgrade was mainly for IT&E smartphone subscribers. Should IT&E smartphone subkindly bring your device to the IT&E Chalan Lau Lau store for further provisioning. The maintenance only affected subscribers on the island of Saipan.

Up for a swim? What about a swim on a storm drain? Next time you head for the beach, think about this: all

and patience as we continue to improve our network for you. For comments, contact the IT&E Customer Care Center at 682-4483. (PR)

JAYSON CAMACHO

Four dogs wait to be delivered to the dog pound in Lower Base. Two of the dogs have collars but were

### 'Dogs will be taken if not registered'

Any dogs that are not tagged will be taken by the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program, regardless of who owns the animal, so owners must make sure that their pets are properly tagged.

According to program manager Spencer Marchadesch yesterday, whether dogs are tied or not tied, if they don't have tags, the program informs the owners to get their dogs registered. If it still isn't done, the dogs will be taken away, he said.

"We get a lot of complaints everyday from dog chases, to dogs being loose,' Marchadesch said.

Most of the calls they have been receiving are dogs chasing pedestrians. Next to that are stray dogs wandering into private properties, scattering garbage, leaving feces in neighborhoods, and roaming freely with no dog tags.

However, with only four workers under the program, they are limited in their ability to respond to all calls. That means they usually prioritize dogs that chase pedestrians. "We don't want anyone to get bitten," Marchadesch said.

So far the program has captured 98 dogs in January of this year and 68 dogs this

Any dogs taken are brought to the Dog Control Shelter in Lower Base. The dogs are kept for 120 hours, which is five days, and are provided food and water.

After five days, the dogs that remain unclaimed are taken to the veterinarian and are euthanized. It costs the Saipan Mayor's Office \$50 to euthanize each dog.

Marchadesch said that about 80 percent of the dogs they catch are euthanized while the rest are claimed by owners or adopted.

It costs \$10 to obtain dog tags and register a pet for one year; any higher than a year have different rates. Applications can be found at the Superior Court, Tax and Revenue, and Treasury Office on Capital Hill.

Marchadesch noted that there will be a promotion for the Dog Control Program next month. (Jayson Camacho)

### over our island, water flows from Mount Tapochau down into our storm drains, taking with it all the trash and pollution from our watersheds — all of it eventually ending up in the ocean where we swim and fish.







# Are you an artist who wants to make a difference?



Submit your storm drain art to BECQ by

### TUESDAY, MARCH 1

to win a prize money and the chance to paint your message in Garapan for everyone to see!











For more information, contact Olivia Tenorio of Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8500

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy Birthday nina Asuncion Wabol Nekaifes! On this special day, I wish you all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow, and the days to come! May you have a fantastic birthday and many more to come. Greetings come from you goddaughter, Davizin Carmen Zareena Camacho Nekaifes and the



Birthday greetings going out to Rita Bermudes Agulto who will be celebrating her special day on her birthday. Cheers to you and many, many more years to come and be filled with the warmth of sunshine, the happiness of smiles, the feelings of love and the sharing of good cheer. And may the lord continues to bless you. Greetings coming from your family and friends.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Benjamin Paul T. Manglona! Today is a perfect day to tell you that you are the most amazing person, husband and father! Happy 24th birthday, sweetie! The kids and I wish you an amazing day and good health always. We love you!

### 'Pacific rebalance much more than relocating Marines to Guam'

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—The U.S. military's rebalance to the Pacific involves much more than the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam, according to Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne.

The Joint Region Marianas commander was the guest speaker at yesterday's Guam Chamber of Commerce meeting held at the Hilton. Payne explained the rebalance to the Pacific as a national security strategy across the whole of government, not just the Department of Defense.

"The Marianas is the best thing that the United States has going," Payne said, explaining the critical role of the Mariana Islands in the rebalance. "We think about Guam because it has the bases, because people are stationed on Guam. Got Andersen to the north, got Big Navy to the south, but just as important as those bases are the ranges that are in the Northern Marianas."

Pavne called the firing range in the Northern Marianas one of the best, if not the best, that

the Department of Defense has in terms of size, air space, and training opportunities.

Currently at any given time Guam has about 5,000 active duty personnel stationed here, according to Payne. The official said the Marine Corps relocation will add about 5,000 active duty personnel but only a third of them will be permanently stationed here.

### Preparations now underway

Following hot on the heels of the very successful Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, preparation has already begun for the 2014 Tinian San Jose Fiesta.

This year's fiesta will be officially conducted on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, although booths will begin opening for food and drinks by Wednesday, April 30.

The first major event will be a highly competitive Bottom Fishing Derby, starting at 6am of May 2, Friday, with all boats due back at the Tinian dock before 6pm for the weigh-in and recording by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Saturday, May 3, will feature another iteration of the

for Tinian's San Jose Fiesta Tour de Tinian 100K Mountain Bike Race, beginning at 6:30am at Kammer Beach, near the fiesta grounds. This will be followed by the official opening ceremony at the fiesta grounds and the beginning of the other local competitions.

> Sunday morning will be the San Jose Mass and the continuation of the games at the fiesta grounds.

> Camp grounds will be provided for those who wish to bring tents.

Mayor Ray Dela Cruz and the joint Tinian leadership invite everyone to come to Tinian and share in the island's annual fiesta. (PR)

### March 2014 is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

"Ability at Work" is the theme for the National Developmental Disabilities Month Awareness 2014. The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, DD Network (NMPASI and NMC-UCEDD), and partners celebrate the National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March, and invite you to consider the true meaning of this year's theme, "Ability at Work!"

CNMI-wide, and across the nation, organizations devoted to serving individuals with

developmental disabilities are planning special events in March to raise public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability. "Ability at Work" encourages people to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins.

"This is a time when our organization focuses on encouraging the public to better understand the individuals we serve," said John DLG. Demapan, vice chairperson for the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council.

During March, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we encourage people to learn more about the people in this community who have developmental disabilities and to recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer to make this a better place to live.

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, DD Network (NMPASI and NMC-UCEDD) and partners

will kick off its recognition of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a proclamation signing on Feb. 28, 2014, Friday, at the Office of the Governor's conference room at 10am.

This March, get acquainted with someone who has a developmental disability. You'll learn that everyone has something to offer and that and when we are all together our communities are stronger, we accomplish more, and everyone wins! (DD Council)

### Dates set for 9th Ambassadors, Consuls General, and Tourism Directors Tour

The 9th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour in the Philippines will take place this year from July28 to July 31, 2014 (Basic Tour) and from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2014 (Post Tour).

According to the Philippine Consulate General, the basic tour package includes hotel accommodation at Dusit Thani Manila, daily buffet breakfast, two lunches, two dinners with special entertainment. There will be n historic wreath-laying ceremony at Rizal Park, an audience with President Benigno S. Aquino III, followed by lunch at Malacañang Heroes Hall. There will also be a running tour of Manila and Makati area, a visit to the University of Santo Tomas, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Ayala Museum and na@gmail.com. (PR)

out-of- town tour to Villa Escudero in Laguna.

After the ACGTD Tour, post-tour packages outside Manila to premier destinations such as Laoag-Vigan, Banaue/ Sagada, Iloilo/Bacolod, Cebu/ Bohol, Camiguin, Kalibo-Boracay, Puerto Princesa, Camsur-Legaspi can be availed of by the participants.

While the details of the tour package are still being finalized, those who are interested to participate are encouraged to "save the date" or "block off their calendars" on the dates to avoid conflict with other travel plans.

For more information on the ACGTDT, contact Mildred Sayurin at telephone nos. 646-4620/30 or email pcgagana@ gmail.com or cultural.pcgaga-

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Terms and Conditions: Ticket must be booked by 03/10/14 to be eligible for discount, Discount is valid when payment is made with First Hawaiian Bank MileagePlus credit card, Offer is valid only against market published structured fares for roundtrip travel from Guam or Northern Marianas to U.S. Valid on UA flights only (must include travel via Guam and Honolulu on UA200/UA201). Other discounts and travel certificates cannot be combined and are not applicable. Rules on published fare apply to ticket purchased. Offer is valid for ticket originating and issuance in Guam and Northern Marianas only, Discount not applicable to prior purchases, Discount does not apply to any taxes, fees, or surcharges. Offer is applicable for ticketing at united.com and United City Ticket Office with offer code FHBGUB. Ticketing service fee of \$30 applies for ticket issuance through United City Ticket Office.

\*Discount is only eligible for through fares to USA.





discount-eligible routes





A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

### Marianas Cup featured in mag

Year-round sports activities in the Northern Marianas continue to gain international attention, as Japan's Beach Volleyball Style magazine returns to Saipan on Feb. 21-24, 2014, to cover the Marianas Cup.

The cup attracted local and international professional and amateur athletes and will be featured in the May 2014 issue of the publication. Beach Volleyball Style targets professional and amateur volleyball players in their 20s to 40s with techniques and player profiles. The magazine has a circulation of 5,000 and is released quarterly. The Marianas Cup is

scheduled to have a five-page spread in May.

"The Marianas Cup is one of the more popular, wellorganized sporting events the Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to support, especially for the media coverage it draws year after year," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We congratulate the organizers on another success event this year and look forward to another article this year by Beach Volleyball Style."

The media tour was also supported by Fiesta Resort & Spa and Mariana Resort &

Spa. (MVA)

### March 14 deadline for IFIT scholarship

>>> Bank of Guam offers \$10K in college scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced vesterday that applications are now available for its 2014 IFIT Scholarship Program, which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating high school seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- 1. Reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

Class of 2014 (copies of transcripts and SAT/ACT scores required);

- 3. Submit the original, numbered application by March 14, 2014, to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;
- 4. Submit three letters of recommendation, one from a reference of choice; and
- 5. Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university. Eight semifinalists will be selected by April and will 2. Be high school seniors, then be required to submit ad-

### New safety measures aim to protect farm workers from pesticide exposure

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced proposed revisions to the Worker Protection Standard in order to protect the nation's two million farm workers and their families from pesticide exposure.

"Today marks an important milestone for the farm workers who plant, tend, and harvest the food that we put on our tables each day," said Gina McCarthy, EPA Administrator. "EPA's revised Worker Protection Standard will afford farm workers similar health protections to those already enjoyed by workers in other jobs. Protecting our nation's farm workers from pesticide exposure is at the core of EPA's work to ensure environmental justice."

EPA is proposing significant improvements to worker training regarding the safe usage of pesticides, including how to prevent and effectively treat pesticide exposure. Increased training and signage will inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law and will help them protect themselves and their families from pesticide exposure.

Workers and others near treated fields will now be protected from pesticide overspray and fumes. In addition, EPA has proposed that children under 16 be legally barred from handling all pesticides, with an exemption for family farms. These revisions protect workers while ensuring agricultural productivity and preserving the traditions of family farms.

This proposal represents more than a decade of extensive stakeholder input by federal and state partners and from across the agricultural community including farm workers, farmers, and industry on the current EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for Agricultural Pesticides first established in 1992.

For more information on the EPA's Proposed Worker Protection Standard: http://www.epa. gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/ proposed/index.html. (EPA)

ditional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university.

Last year's awardees were graduates of Guam's Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Father Duenas Memorial School. Additionally, graduates from Saipan's Kagman High School, Marianas Baptist Academy and Grace Christian Academy won the scholarships

and paid internships.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches, Customer Service Department in Hagatna branch lobby and Marketing Department. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted.

Contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com for any information. (BOG)

### WESPAC sets meetings in CNMI, Guam

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is hosting its 115th Science and Statistical Committee meeting in Honolulu on March 11-13.

The 159th Council meeting will be held in the CNMI on March 17-18 and then in Guam on March 20-21.

The Council will also convene meetings of the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan, or FEP, Plan Team, Guam Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee, the Joint Mariana FEP Plan team and Advisory Panel and the Council's Standing Committees. The meetings will be held from March 11 through March 21, 2014. For specific times and agendas, visit http:// www.wpcouncil.org/meetingsand-events/.

Key agenda items for the 115th Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting are CNMI bottomfish fishery, determining probability of overfishing, acceptable biological catches for coral reef species, American Samoa longline fishery, and Hawaii longline fishery (Eastern Pacific Ocean bigeye tuna catch limit).

Key agenda items for the 159th Council Meeting are:

In the CNMI: Agency reports, Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, CNMI bottomfish area closure modification, determining probability of overfishing, social economic and ecological management uncertainty, acceptable biological catches for coral reef species and American Samoa fisheries development. Public comment on non-agenda items will be taken on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, from 4pm to 5pm.

In Guam: Guam community development activities and issues, Hawaii bottomfish management, American Samoa longline fishery, Hawaii longline fishery (targeting big eye tuna) and protected species issues. Public comment on non-agenda items will be taken on Thursday, March 20, 2014, from 4pm to 5pm.

Written comments received by March 7 will be copied and distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. After March 7, it is the submitter's responsibility to provide Council staff with an adequate number of copies at the meeting (minimum of 40 copies). Do not miss your chance to be heard.

Written comments can be submitted by e-mail to info. wpcouncil@noaa.gov, faxed to (808) 522-8226, or mailed to the Council office at 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813. (WESPAC)

Govt seeks over-the-cap pay for appointee

ceiling for senior policy adviser and interim Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, despite a promise that none of governor's appointees will be paid over the salary cap. The request was signed by then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and submitted to the Upper House on Feb. 14, 2006. It is now awaiting Senate action. According to press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr., the administration wants to increase Del Rosario's salary from the \$50,000 salary ceiling to \$54,000. Reyes justified the pay hike request, saying that Del Rosario now serves in two capacities.

**February 27, 2006** 

Due to inaction, the CNMI government may no longer col-

lect almost \$300,000 worth of bounced checks issued to the

Department of Finance since 1983. The administration has

determined that the total amount of uncollected checks cur-

rently under the Finance Department is \$599,440. However,

\$296,230 will have to be written off due to the expiration of

The Fitial administration is seeking a waiver of the salary

DoF: \$296K bounced checks uncollectible

the six-year statute of limitations.

#### February 27, 2007

### Federal immigration bill in a few weeks

The U.S. Senate intends to introduce a bill extending federal immigration control in the CNMI in a few weeks, said former Insular Affairs director and now congressional staff Allen Stayman yesterday. Stayman and fellow staffer Josh Johnson, who are on a fact-finding mission on Saipan this week, work for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. "We're talking weeks, not months. The three of us will draft the bill as a group effort, along with the people of the Marianas. It's a partnership. The objective is to establish federal border control in a way that meets the special needs of the CNMI," said Stayman during a press briefing at Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday noon. Seated with him at the briefing were Johnson and visiting Office of Insular Affairs congressional liaison Stephen Sander.

### **Legislation would include special provisions for NMI**

Visiting U.S. congressional staffers agree the special needs of the Commonwealth must be included in any legislation applying federal policy to local immigration. Allen Stayman and Josh Johnson, staff members to U.S. Senate Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici respectively, said the purpose of their visit is to ensure the local community gets to have its say before a CNMI immigration bill is introduced in Washington, D.C. Stayman and Johnson, along with U.S. Office of Insular Affairs congressional liaison Stephen Sander, are on island to gather information for a federal immigration bill that they will be drafting upon return to the nation's capital.

### **February 27, 2008**

### NMI scores a low 2.44 in Performeter report

A study of the CNMI's financial health and performances shows the Commonwealth continues to be in trouble. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, the CNMI government scored 2.44 in the recently released "Performeter" analysis, which the U.S. Department of the Interior funded to gauge the fiscal performance of islands governments in 2006. The CNMI's latest score is relatively consistent with that of prior years. The Commonwealth scored 3.18 in 2002, when the Performeter study was first conducted by Crawford & Associates CPA. The score declined to 3.11 in 2003, and further plunged to 2.24 and 2.25 in 2004 and 2005.

#### Russians, they are a-coming

Tourist arrivals from Russia have grown by leaps and bounds the past couple years and in the current fiscal year alone, guests from the former Soviet republic have seen an 87-percent spike. According to figures from the Marianas Visitors Authority, the market has grown from 964 tourists in the October-January in Fiscal Year 2006 to a robust 1,806 in the same four-month period in FY 2007. The increase in tourists coming from Russia was buoyed by charter flights from Vladivostok Air and DalAvia Airlines at the end of the year as well as the continuous influx of Russians aboard Asiana Airlines via Seoul.

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

**Ace Printing** 

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ace Printing is proposing to operate a clothing print shop in Gualo Rai on lot #EA 145-1-1. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located across from Highway Market on Middle Road and is zoned as Mixed Commercial

Date: March 6, 2014, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr. Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 5th, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### **Notice of Zoning Board Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, March 6th, 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipar (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

- Preliminary Matters
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda Adoption of January 23rd, 2014 minutes Public Comments

- Public Comments
   Public Hearings
   Conditional Use Application #2014-0271: Ace Printing is proposing to operate a clothing print shop in Gualo Rai on lot #EA 145-1-1. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located across from Highway Market on Middle Road and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- Conditional Use Application #2014-0592: Songbird Aviation, LLC is proposing to operate light aircrafts known as "weight shift control light sport aircraft" or "trikes" in Marpi on a public land lot. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located southeast of Banzai Cliff between the veterans cemetery and the former Cowtown, and is zoned as Rural.
- Conditional Use Application #2014-0624: ASG Corporation is proposing to operate a warehouse and printing facility in Koblerville on lot #023-1-02. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in
- Inis use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on Chalan Mnsgr. Martinez south of St. Jude Church, and is zoned as Village Commercial. Conditional Use Application #2014-0627: CELNAPS Enterprises is proposing to operate an office in China Town on lot #017 D 01. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on the corner of Matsue St. and Judge way, east of the basketball court, and is zoned as Village Residential.
- Communications/ Reports
- Legislature
- Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI
- New Business
- 1. Office operations report Executive (Closed) Session.
- E. Executive (Closed) Session.
   G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

### Settlement trustee says personnel budget up by \$141,008

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com

While personnel wages and salaries of the Settlement Fund increased by \$141,008 from fiscal year 2013, the Fund was able to reduce the overall administrative expenses by 17.85 percent, according to Fund trustee Joyce CH. Tang.

In her supplemental report and response filed in federal

week, Tang said the Fund's budget for wages and salaries in fiscal year 2014 \$898,082, compared to \$757,074 in fiscal year 2013—

an increase of \$141,008.

overall administrative ex-

court early this >>> Tang cites overall administrative expenses down by 17.85 percent

penses for fiscal year 2014 is \$1,947,352, much lower compared \$2,370,391 in fiscal year 2013—a reduction by \$423,039 or by 17.85 percent.

In the CNMI government's Tang said, however, that response to Tang's Feb. 12 report, assistant attorney genTang's alleged incorrect calculation of employer contributions as well as an unjustified proposed increase in wages and salaries.

Tang explained that the increased personnel expenses resulted from the overtime employees incurred in the first guarter (October 2013 to December 2013) to cover Public Law 17-82 disbursements, and

eral Reena J. Patel objected to other support provided by the tributing the Public Law 17-82 Settlement Fund to the government.

> The other causes for the increase, she said, are reclassification of certain employees' positions pursuant to NMI personnel regulations based on an earlier desk audit of positions and raises approved by then-trustee ad litem for certain employees prior to the settlement in Betty Johnson's class action.

> "In reviewing the raises after the settlement, the Settlement trustee notes that the employees of the Fund were working under enormous stress, in a highly contentious, often hostile environment, for the period leading up to the settlement.

> Tang said none of the managers who worked overtime for the months leading up to the approval of the settlement agreement and after the Settlement Fund came into being received overtime pay.

Tang said that Fund employees frequently worked between 50- to 60-hour weeks from September 2012 to November 2013, to meet the demands of calculating and disployer's contribution.

payments for over 1,700 employees, to effectuate the transition of the Settlement Fund, and to perform the many responsibilities undertaken by the Settlement Fund on behalf of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tang said there was concern that without a small increase in wages or reclassification, the Settlement Fund was going to lose seasoned employees at a critical period of the transition.

"Under the circumstances, the reclassification and raises appear to have been earned," she said.

On the issue of inaccuracy, Tang said since the filing of the trustee's report, the Settlement Fund and government have worked to resolve this matter

She said the government has provided up-to-date earnings information that she did not have when the report was

Tang said since the Settlement Fund does not have the actual earnings for a current pay period, it can only estimate the amount of the em-



TRIPLE J ETC CONTRIBUTION

Triple J's group of companies recently gave Mount Carmel School a \$5,000 Education Tax Credit donation. John "Jay" Santos, second from left, general manager for Triple J Five Star Wholesale, and Randy Steele, third from left, general manager for Triple J Motors, visited the school to hand off the check to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, far right, and junior class officers.



#### **Procurement And Supply CNMI** Government



### **INVITATION FOR BID**

IFB NO.: IFB14-HSEM-063

Submission/Opening Date: March 28, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

"YARD MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

Prospective bidders may retrieve a copy of the complete contents of the Invitation for Bids at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or portions thereof, and wave immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN Special Assistant for Homeland Security /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

**ASG Corporation** 

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. ASG Corporation is proposing to operate a warehouse and printing facility in Koblerville on lot #023-I-02. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on Chalan Mnsgr. Martinez south of St. Jude Church, and is zoned as Village Commercial.

March 6, 2014, Thursday Date:

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr,** 

Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 5th, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

**CELNAPS Enterprises** 

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. CELNAPS Enterprises is proposing to operate an office in China Town on lot #017 D 01. This use is classified as Office and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on the corner of Matsue St. and Judge way, east of the basketball court, and is zoned as Village Residential.

March 6, 2014, Thursday Date:

5:00 pm Time:

**Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr,** Place:

Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 5th, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

Songbird Aviation, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Songbird Aviation, LLC is proposing to operate light aircrafts known as "weight shift control light sport aircraft" or "trikes" in Marpi on a public land lot. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located southeast of Banzai Cliff between the veterans cemetery and the former Cowtown, and is zoned as Rural.

Date: March 6, 2014, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Place:

Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 5th, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

10 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

### **Opinion**



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### **EDITORIAL**

## West must support Ukraine's transition

tense if hopeful peace has settled on Ukraine after pro-Western protesters took to the streets and succeeded in ousting Viktor Yanukovych from the presidential palace.

This is progress, if fragile progress, in a country where many people want to diminish Russia's influence in their affairs. Ridding the nation of Yanukovych was a good first step. The harsh government crackdown that led to scores of protester deaths last week was an intolerable act that demanded condemnation and should lead to Yanukovych's arrest and prosecution.

Now Western leaders, and especially the United States, must support constitutional reforms that answer key demands of the protesters to ensure Ukraine's independence. At the same time, Ukraine's unity cannot be compromised, which means ensuring that the voices of the pro-Russia minority are heard.

Key to Ukraine's independence is its financial stability, which means Europe and the United States must be prepared to make a commitment of aid. The nation is now at a tipping point that could see it fall into chaos or become a strong state where democratic institutions and rule of law are the norm.

President Barack Obama's statement last week that there would be "consequences if people step over the line" echoed language he used about Syria and the use of chemical weapons. Threatening language means nothing if it's not backed up by action.

Stronger statements and actions in coming weeks and months will be necessary, even at the risk of offending Russian President Vladimir Putin. Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told NBC Sunday that the president "has been exceedingly pragmatic about our dealings with Russia."

That pragmatism has come at a price as Putin has played spoiler to the U.S. on any number of important issues, from protecting the leaker Edward Snowden to boosting Bashar Assad in Syria.

No one wants to return to a Cold War posture with Russia, and cautious diplomacy is critical, even with a ruler like Putin, who seems to revel in stick-in-your-eye ploys.

And no one should doubt the complexity of Ukraine's circumstances. It is a divided country. Its eastern half has a strong pro-Russia sympathy, and many of its people speak Russian as their native tongue. Many in the western half, meanwhile, wish to align more closely with Europe.

The nation's future as a stable, independent and democratic country will not come from a turn back to the east. It will come, with help from Europe and the U.S., by embracing what some protesters died for, a nation of strong democratic institutions operating outside of Russia's shadow.

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### In what do we trust?

n God We Trust is a phrase adopted as the official motto of the United States in 1956 to replace the unofficial E pluribus unum ("Out of many, one"), which has been in the United States seal since 1782. "In God do we trust" is a phrase in the fourth stanza of the poem from where the lyrics of the national anthem Star-Spangled Banner came from. It appeared in coins in 1864 and in paper currency since 1957. It is the motto of Florida. It's Spanish equivalent, En Dios Confiamos, is the motto of Nicaragua.

Its appearance in U.S. coins was a political move, to indicate that God was on the side of the Union in its minted coins vs the Confederacy. It's ascendancy into common usage since 1956 stemmed from the Cold War when President Eisenhower signed a law to incorporate "nation under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance to distinguish the United States from the atheist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Historically, the phrase was incorporated into the nation's set of metaphors, not out of theological acumen but for political reasons.

The word G-O-D is the English translation of the German "Gott," which means good. The word made it to the Judeo-Christian sense of the supreme, of "what is" rather than "what had been, what we presently feel and think, or what we hope for." YHWH, the "I am who I am," or "that of which there is no other" of the Levant, focused on reality rather than the illusion of a mirage in the desert, makes for effective authentic living.

"That which is totally other, a no-thing" came as Islam's antiidolatry against the icons of Judaism and Christianity. The no-thing in Arabic is Allah. So, in Jewish-Christian tradition, God is the all powerful and almighty that is a mystery. In Islam, where icons of anything are reduced to nothing, Allah is what we know only too well, the nothing that reduces everything into an illusion. Allah is the No-Thing

Secularist are saying that the word "God" is too closely associated with specific religious traditions that to have it officially in the documents of political union that wrote into its constitution the separation of church and state, would be well to excise the word lest its presence indicates official favor of one tradition over and against another. Having it in public documents, tablets, monuments, *et al*, is clearly unconstitutional. In Malaysia, the Muslims are insisting that only Islam is entitled to the word "Allah" and Christians must not use it as a translation for the word "God." They have a point, if they would only just divorce it from partisan politics. The *Tao* that cannot be named, and the enigmatic but breath-captivating *OM* best experienced when simultaneously inhaled and exhaled, do not have limit problems. But the word "God" is inappropriate to translate either for *Tao* or *Om*.

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



The presence of the word in the phrase "In God we trust" is currently a hot issue. A dear friend was up in arms when it was suggested that "God" should be removed from official usage and its use be at the discretion of individual citizens. She believes fervently that her biblical God called America to be the New Israel.

Tom DeLay (R-Texas), former majority floor leader of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives, and erstwhile friend to Saipan's once flourishing garment industry, plays in the same ballpark. Recently, our fleet-footed (he danced on TV after he resigned from Congress) rep stated that God wrote the U.S. Constitution. This was not an unusual claim in Texas where I went to school, since God as *deus ex machina* is the prevailing image of efficient and effective deity, but hardly is it a metaphor we expect to hear as a responsible claim.

Recently, George Zimmerman of the Martin Trayvon homicide fame claimed that he answered only to God. He claims further that his shooting of Martin was the will of God! Damn.

God has not been put in a good light of late. But it is the element of trust that is of interest to us because not too many outside of American theocracy (well, that may not be accurate since in my lifetime, there has not been any naïve God-worshiping President of the Union) would glibly repeat the "In God we trust" motto. However, "in what shall we trust?" remains a valid question as the nations of the world tighten their sovereign boundaries and straighten their economic houses in order.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe interviewed in Davos, Switzerland, at a G-20 meeting said that China's economic ascendancy is built on trust, not tension. We could not agree more. So why does he keep rattling Nippon's saber? It is not as if we do not have a record of who has been belligerent outside its borders in the last 100 years. Or why does the U.S. keep insisting on parading its military muscle vis-à-vis the shivered up economy of NoKor? SoKor's military might is 10 times stronger than that of its northern kin, and we insist on calling the joint exercises a defensive move? No wonder NoKor insists on having nuclear capabilities!

Right on, Shinzo Abe. But please start heeding your own advice.

### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish

and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

### Dibi yan Obligasion Familia

dibi yan obligasion familia kahulu` mas ke 105 pot sientu mientras i sueddu tai adelantu pot dies años na tiempu. Mientras tantos, sige man-sabiun I Deni` man-bailan fayao.

I man-ritirau man-ma-utut 25 pot sientu sueddun niha. Dispues, man-pinalo'pu' 40 pot sientu 'nai kahulu' apas insurance hinemlu.

Tinatiye este ni apas \$500-\$1,000 na apas mafanana`an "deductible"—patten man-ritirau 20 pot sientu ni debi uma`apase gi hospitat—fuerea de kahulu` apas amot otru 40 pot sientu.

Gi hilu` este, siempre u kahulu` ta`lu i presiun fektus siha yan apas kandet. Dios mihu na mattiru kontra i sumen kara` na pottanmonedan familia.

Hafa bidan niniha i man-sabiun I Deni` para uma-ataha este na mattiru siha kontra familia gi señgsoñg? Kau ti matuñgu` i pinadesen publiku pat kadu` kontodu siha man-sinasa`pet ni taya` bidan niniha? Halo?

#### Fondu pot asuntun minalañgu

Guaha 'nai hu fagchae' famaguon siha gi kanton chalan man-'e'ensinahyau rinikohen nina'en sientimos pot ayudu gi membron familia ni para umana' hanau para hospitat hiyung Marianas.

Dos asuntu mafattu gi hinasoghu: 1). Man-malañgu mampos i tautau-ta. 2). Gaige responsablidat hinemlu` gi kada unu giya hita. Gi mismu tiempu guaha ha` na chetnot ginen modun linala`ta. Guaha ha` lokue` gaige gi haga` natibu.

Este na patte gi hinemlu` natibu debi u guaha fotmat na estudiu pot para ta tuñgu` kuantu gi tautau-ta gaige chetnot niha gi haga`. Pot ihemplo, haf` na un` tautau ni aktibu, ti gigimen atkahot yan ti chichipa poduñg naneñg ya matai stroke?

Haf tutuhon daibites (Type Two) ni megai ha aminanasa gi tautau-ta? Hafa pumupunu` reñihion man-daibites? Haf` na pot mas, siñku años tiempoña i madaialasis na malañgu? Kau guaha gi amot ni mana sesetbe umafuefuetsas este na patte gi mana` gasgas haga` i malañgu?

I asuntu ha mirese ma-ina ya estague` na asuntu i kabesanten hinemlu` gi pettinenti na komitean lehislatura debi u brabu umaligau ma-estudiayen este na chinatsaga. Estague` patte gi obligasion pinetsigen areglun publiku. Muñga manañgga na estake man-popoduñg kulan matai lalu` i tautau na para infa` man-machochochu` hamyu.

#### **Tutuhon giya hagu**

Kau hinemlu` `sino haf` na disposision, gaige ennau na putdet giya hita mismu. Hagu gumugu` ot disposision todu para un` chogue.

`An malago` hau na u fan homlu` yan felis famaguon-mu, pues hagu` mona pasumu ya hagu mismu un` eksisia homlu` na sentada yan etsisiu para i familia-mu.

`An malago` hau man-antau kinahulu` famaguon-mu, pega mona animumu ya un` esgaihon todus deste propriu yan antau na che`chu` tautau kontodu doktrina.

Todu pot todu, kada asuntu gaige gi dos patman kanaita. Hita solu siña dumespone finaposta sin ta fan ma-afuetsas. Tana` para kustumbren la mañana tat kumu estake sala` i chetnot.

Pasensiaye ya un` tutuhon giya hagu mismu.

#### Ambre i publiku areglu

I pinadese pa'gu, punta pot punta, ginen diskuiduta todu. Ta entrega puestu i mangaige pa'gu gi siyan publiku. Lamayot patte diskuidu pot ti manlistu gi asuntun publiku 'sino linahyan.

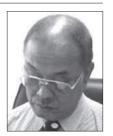
Megaiña pa'gu eskusu ke haf' debi mohon u fan machogue. Guaha siempre u hasñgun muna' ta'lun mamtu hagas dinage. Maseha umasusede, dos na dinage ti u tulaikague' guatu gi magahet. Che'chu' dakon na bisiun muron yan kabron.

'An un' soda' yan un' lapbla direktamiente, manadan eskusu mientras sige man-atan manu na koyentura 'nai siña ha pula'gue'. Ni ti mañaunau hamyu mañganta "better times?" Man-fayen baba hombre matulaika titulun kantan niha guatu gi, "This is IT!" Hombre, menhalom i publiku ya esta monhayan ha titeg todu leblon

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



miyu kontodu ayu i timatutuge`. Tiempon areglu sin hamyu!

#### Dios mihu, dalai `ste

Sige amiguhu Magoo fumofu pot guaguan kandet, gaselina, fektos, insurance hinemlu` yan otru siha obligasion. I binibuña kontodu guahu ha lachai lumatigasu. Hu sotta estake ha lagnos todu binibuña.

Dispues, mangagau dispensu pot guahu 'nai ha luga' binibuña. Hu komprende haf' sentimentoña. Lau mangaige gi hegsu' I Deni' i man-sabiu siha ni mangai obligasion umaregla i te'ug na disareglu. Kada ratu magap yan losus kulan bisiu.

Gi konbetsasion mame, hu lie` kuantu i amiguhu sueddoña gi mes ni todu linachai ni difirientes klasen hatsada. Ti u ta`lu hun dumiskuidague` piot pa`gu na eleksion. Hu sañgane na kase mafnas ñaihon siempre binibuña gigon man-uñgag lateria ginen kandidatu siha. Chumaleg ya ilegña, "Pobleyu` primu lau ti un` fahan antihu". Lau na`magof i ha sañgan dibuenamente sentimentoña, ni gaige gi pachot publiku gi enteru iya Marianas.

Tres klasen tautau guaha: I muna` guaha masusede, i uma`atan haf` masusede yan i ti tumuñgu haf` masusede. I botado matuñgu` na memegaiña gi man-ma-elihe ti tumuñgu haf` masusede hombre sessu man-ñgaha` hulu` pot ginagau ausiliu. Dios mihu!

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Some thoughts about Article 12

Editor's Note: Due to its length, this letter is being published in two parts.

rticle 12 of the CNMI Constitution—"a requirement that the acquisition of permanent and long term interest in real property be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent"—generates lively discussions at any CNMI political gathering, historical review, or educational setting. Discussion ranges from violations of U.S. constitutional principles (equal rights), constraints on economic development, and the debate about whether the provision was only meant to be a holding clause rather than a permanent policy.

In Don Farrell's revised History of the Northern Marianas (negotiating the Covenant, page 605), it outlined the Marianas political status negotiators' top priorities. The Marianas delegation identified four areas of prime concern: 1) a defined political status unique to the desires of the people of the Northern Marianas; 2) control over the all lands in the Northern Marianas and protection against land alienation; 3) economic and financial assistance to create a stable community; and 4) a smooth transition upon the termination of the trusteeships. But in a recent first part Article 12 television series on Flame tree TV sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Mr. Vicente Santos says that in the course of the negotiation, at first there was no mention of any land alienation restriction. The issue on land came about when U.S. negotiators bared their U.S. military land needs that covered a big area. This excited, and also concerned the NMI status negotiators, for they expected land use but did not expect the extent of this land needs.

A reading of the Report of the United Nations visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1961 will facilitate the background necessary to understand the political self-determination processes for self-governance that Marianas Islands and its people underwent through. The U.S. Nathan Report for the Marianas on Economic development mentioned land utilization but no specific on land alienation restrictions, but it did report on the financial aids, human resources, and infrastructures needed to integrate the Marianas in the American political system.

As a Commonwealth, the Northern Mariana Islands recognizes U.S. sovereignty with limitations in some respects, especially concerning the applicability of federal laws. "Covenant Section 105 provides that many provisions of the Covenant may be modified only with the joint consent of the U.S. and CNMI Governments; as of November 1997, only one such amendment has been enacted—

Public Law 98-213 9(97 stat. 1461), a measure revising Covenant section 606 (b); concerning Social Security taxes and benefits."

At the outset of the status negotiations between the Marianas and U.S. delegations, it was apparent that both delegations have a concern on limited land availability in the Marianas. The two delegations worked mutually in ensuring that scarcity of land will be addressed in the resulting negotiations, in which they did in Section 805 and Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. I found a declassified document scanned and digitalized in adobe searchable PDF format, a collection of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council titled, "Power of Marianas to Limit Transfers of Land to Marianan Ancestry." It basically explored legislations that if enacted will withstand constitutional scrutiny. It was also recorded that not everyone was in agreement for the inclusion of land alienation restriction in the proposal of the Covenant agreement. Citing the same objection on grounds of encroachment on equal rights as mandated in the amendment to the U.S. Constitution, some members of the Marianas status delegation at that time was quoted that the Covenant agreement will not pass both houses of the U.S. Congress and will be vetoed by the U.S. President. But it did pass both U.S. congressional houses, with one senator making his disapproval of the Covenant agreement known, and was signed by the U.S. president.

The economic arguments for or against Article 12 have been the most vocal in the debates. Those who are for Article 12 argue that the CNMI does not have any inherent rich natural resources, mineral deposits, or vast tracts of lands for agriculture and other economic, long-term activity. (There were some reports in the media a few years back, and just recently, that huge amounts of hydrothermal deposits or valuable minerals are sitting on CNMI's submerged sea floor, but no official word from the local government affirmed this reports.) Yet those in opposition of the restriction feel that its removal will lead to the CNMI's complete independence from federal subsidy in the foreseeable future. In my humble belief, with or without Article 12's restrictions, economic development in the CNMI will consistently be dependent on federal subsidy, now and in the future years to come.

Article 12 also has important political dimension. So far, the CNMI land alienation restriction provisions have been upheld in the courts, and perhaps will even survive lawsuits on the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution simply because the "one man, one vote" doctrine might not be applicable to the CNMI Constitution's Article 12 because of its disproportionate population against that of the United States. This theoretical

assumption on disproportionate ratio also is the reason for a non-voting delegate, and the inability of the U.S. insular possessions to vote for the U.S. presidency, I conjecture. As the U.S. citizen population in the CNMI is more diverse now compared to 30 some years ago, we will, I think, soon find out. An amendment to the CNMI Constitution requires ratification, but voting for the land alienation provision is restricted to NMDs only. A challenge in the U.S. courts might appear due to perceived violations of U.S. voting rights on exclusive restrictions.

It would also seem that exclusive land alienation restrictions are not limited to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island. Peter Larmour, staff at Crawford School of Public Policy, wrote an article titled "Land Tenure Provisions of Pacific Island Constitutions." Larmour enumerated and compared 15 Pacific Islands' constitutions that deal with land and land alienation provisions. Most of the Pacific Islands in Larmour's article have restrictive land alienation laws favoring that of island ancestry.

Adding to the complications of the CNMI's land alienation restriction is its inherent connection to the cultural identity of a group of people. Those who do not agree with the proponents to abolish Article 12 argue that culture does not only reside in land. I would like to note that, according to some well known authors on Pacific Islands, from the initial European contact Pacific islanders did not voluntarily gave up their right to self-rule—"the historical experience of the Pacific people, including the people of the Marianas, are contrary to the cultural experiences of dominant nations." It was taken under the pretense of civilizing the uncivilized islanders. Many, including the indigenous people of the Northern Marianas Islands, and other Pacific islands did not have the opportunity to fully establish their unique cultural identity in the modern sense since Pacific islanders for most time were under the shadow of European or Asian tutelage. Today, Pacific island cultural identity revival might be frowned upon by European and U.S. mainlanders because of their documented historical experience on race but for Pacific Islands people it is a must to ensure their place in history of their own doing. That their own native "cultural identity" places them in the world theater, not under any administrative power that undermines their right to self-determination.

To be continued

**Bryan Manabat** 

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

**12** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

### The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.

▲85° **▼**75°



Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.

▲ 85° **▼** 75°

#### SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms

**▲84° ▼75°** 



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms

▲ 86° ▼ 75°



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

**▲86° ▼75°** 

### Yesterday's Satellite Image

#### Guam and Rota Thundershowers ▲84 ▼76 Palau Showers ▲85 ▼75 Yap Mostly Cloudy ▲87 ▼76 Chuuk Showers **▲**83 **▼**78 Pohnpei Thunderstorms ▲85 ▼78 Kosrae Thunderstorms ▲85 ▼78 Majuro Showers ▲86 ▼80

**Micronesia** 

#### **Around The Globe** Auckland Mostly Sunny ▲77 ▼63 Beijing Sunny **▲**48 **▼**27 Hong Kong Mostly Sunny ▲72 ▼65 Partly Cloudy ▲77 ▼66 Honolulu Showers London **▲**51 ▼40 Partly Cloudy ▲66 ▼53 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy ▲87 ▼75 Manila Partly Cloudy ▲69 ▼52 Melbourne Partly Cloudy ▲87 ▼67 Miami New York Snow **▲**28 ▼15 Osaka Rain **▲61** ▼50 Paris **▲**48 **▼**41 Showers Pusan Showers **▲**63 ▼43 Rome Showers **▲**58 **▼**42 Cloudy **▲**59 ▼43 Salem San Francisco Rain **▲**62 **▼**53 Seoul Partly Cloudy ▲56 ▼30 Tokyo Showers **▲**57 **▼**50

Tides									
Saipan Ha	arbor								
6:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet						
12:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet						
5:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet						

Snow

**▲**37 ▼23

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					***
120	130	140	150	160	170

#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E then across the Northern Marianas near Anatahan at 16N146E to end north of Koror at 10N134E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends south of the shear line from west of Koror near 6N130E to 5N145E to end near a broad circulation near Chuuk at 7N153E. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms are occurring over portions of the Republic of Palau and Yap state south of a line from 11N130E to 10N135E to 5N145E and farther south of Pohnpei south of a line from 2N150E to 4N160E. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Chuuk and Pohnpei in the vicinity of the broad circulation centered near 7N153E. Most showers and thunderstorms are found north of the center of circulation near and north of Chuuk and Pohnpei and east of Marianas. This includes most of the area between 6N and 15N from 145E to 159E. Trade-wind convergence within the intertropical convergence zone is generating widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from east of Kosrae and near Majuro between 4N and 7N from 165E to the date line

Su	nrise/Suns	et	Моо	nrise/Mooi	nset
Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Today	4:21 AM	4:16 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Friday	5:14 AM	5:18 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Sunday	6:54 AM	7:19 PM
Monday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM	Monday	7:41 AM	8:16 PM

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### **PICTURES**

following

Washington, DC

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers. volunteer work. etc. **■ TRÁVELOGUE**
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

NMI CRIME

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and

private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

### next day's edition.

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- iavvee valleiera@saipantribune.com
- Fax: (670) 235-3740 ■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center Beach Boad, Garapan, Saipan
  - To check if contributions are i

### 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- through the following: ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
  - \*11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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#### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEE	AR	TUR	ES		ARE	RIVAL	.s
				GUAM (GUM)-SA			
<b>saipan-guam (gu</b> Ua5070		5:05am	Daily	UA5069		3:35am	Daily
UA5068		9:30am	Daily	UA5071		8:05am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5039		1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
1145000	2-20	2:10	via Rota	UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
UA5038		3:10pm 6:55pm	2, 3, 6 Daily	UA5077	1-1Enm	5:35pm	via Rota Daily
UA5078 UA5072		6.55piii 10:40pm	Daily Daily	UA5077		9:20pm	Daily
		,	,		· ·		,
<b>Saipan-Rota (Roi</b> Ua5039		2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-RO UA5038		12:45pm	2, 3, 6
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM		2:10	1 4 5 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAII		1.F0n.m	227
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KI	•			OSAKA (KIX)-SA			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (N	RT)			NARITA (NRT)-SA	AIPAN		
		8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PI	(SI			BUSAN (PUS)-SA	IPAN		
0Z608		6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	02607		1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (IC	M/			SEOUL (ICN)-SAI	DAN		
<b>SAIPAN-SEUUL (IC</b> 0Z606		6:00am	1	D2101		2:00pm	3
		5:50am	3	0Z603		2:20pm	Daily
0Z606		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D2103		1:00am+1	6
0Z6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will	07605		1:00am+1	7
			increase eff Jan 29)	0Z605 0Z6053		1:30am+1 2:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 3, 6 (will
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6	020033	7.10µ111	Z.JUdili*i	increase
0Z604		7:10pm	Daily				eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI	(DVC)			SHANGHAI (PVG)	-CAIDAN		
<b>3uran-shandha</b> i 3u8648		8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647		5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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<b>Saipan-Beijing (</b> i Mu764		8:00am	1. 5	BEIJING (PEK)-S MU763		3:00am+1	4. 7
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SAIPAN-MANILA (N	•			MANILA (MNL)-S			
		11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603		2:20pm	Daily
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/473		10:55pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077		5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam
UA5068/PR111		4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA190/5079	10:00am		3, 6 via GUM
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UA5039/183 UA5039/183		9:30pm 9:50pm	5 via Guam 1, 4, 7	0Z702/605	12.3UPM	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
			via Guam	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5038/183		9:30pm	2 via GUM		11.00	0-0Fam 1	via GUM
0Z604/703 UA5078/183	,	11:00pm 9:50pm	Daily via ICN 1, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA184/5071	11:54bW	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
	·		via GUM				
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KON	IG (HKG)			HONG KONG (HK	G)-SAIPAN		
0Z606/721		11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z746/603	12:30am		Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z722/605		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
IIAE040 <i>h</i> 70	0.40~~	10:2Enm	via ICN	0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
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<b>Saipan-Tianjin (</b> 1 D2884	<b>ISN)</b> 10:45am	2:45nm	Jan 25, 30,	TIANJIN (TSN)-S D2885		12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30,
PLUUT	iv. <del>1</del> Jaill	ווועטד.ב	Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	DEOOD	T.TJUIII	ıL.LVQIII *I	Feb 4, 9, 14, 2
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<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHO</b> D2880	4.JUpili		12, 17, 22, 27				IL, II. LL. LI
D2880	,		12, 17, 22, 27				12, 11, 22, 21
	,	2:15nm	12, 17, 22, 27 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6,	WUHAN (WUH)-S D2883		12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1,

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7): 3U: Sichuan Airlines: MU: China Eastern: UA: United Airlines: DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

FTD FTA Frequency Airline FTD FTA Frequency

Airline	EID	LIA	Frequency	Airiine	FID	EIA FI	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily				'
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.20	10.10	Duny	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian	(. AF	<b>/.</b> FF	D-:L-	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103 FRE 105	7:30 8:00	7:40 8:10	Daily Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

### Jewell meets with insular areas' chiefs at IGIA meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined governors and congressional representatives from each of the U.S. insular areas yesterday at the annual meeting

of the Interagency >> Interior Group on Insular hosts plenary Affairs, hosted by the Department session of of the Interior, to island leaders discuss how the Obama adminisand federal tration can supofficials port insular area governments' ef-

forts to grow their economies, create jobs, increase skills training and improve education.

The IGIA 2014 Senior Plenary Session, co-chaired by Jewell and White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew, focused on a wide range of challenges facing island territories and provided an opportunity for further discussion on

initiatives meant to strengthen energy, health systems, and tourism marketing in the insular areas. The island governors were also in Washington to attend the annual National Gover-

nors' Conference, and the Western Governors Breakfast.

"The Obama administration knows that engagement with the elected leaders of the governments

of U.S. insular areas is one of the most important intergovernmental relationships we have as a nation," Jewell told island leaders. "The federal family is committed to working collaboratively with the islands' chief executives, members of Congress, and other elected officials to carry out the initiatives needed to improve the lives of our fellow Americans living in American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

The IGIA meeting seeks to

showcase the work of the various federal agencies in the territories, further builds on interagency collaboration and efforts spearheaded by the Department of the Interior, through its Office of Insular Affairs,

and helps to facilitate dialogue on critical policy issues identified by the insular area governors and delegates.

Island leaders participating in yesterday's discussions include U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen; Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo; Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo; Northern Marianas Gov. Eloy Inos; and Northern Marianas Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan. The American Samoa governor's chief of staff Fiu John

Saelua attended on behalf of Gov. Lolo Moliga, who fell ill while in Washington. Chief counsel Fili Sagapolutele from the Office of American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega also represented the congressman.

This year's federal presentations included:

■ Brand USA – Leveraging Resources for Tourism Branding, & Marketing

Christopher L. Thompson, President and CEO, BrandUSA Created under the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, as a public-private partnership, BrandUSA is the official destination marketing organization of the federal government, whose mission is to encourage increased international visitation to the U.S. and grow the U.S. share of the global tourism market.

■ Health & Human Services

— The Affordable Care Act in the Territories

Paul Dioguardi, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, HHS Carol Jimenez, Sr. Advisor, CMS, Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight

Discussion on the application of the Affordable Care Act in the territories and update on the current status.

■ U.S. Department of Energy
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Technologies in the
Territories

Jennifer DeCesaro, Acting Director of Technology-to-Market, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy

Discussion on challenges related to the commercialization and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in the territories.

■ National Renewable Energy Laboratory — Collaboration in the Territories

Scott Haase, NREL/DOI Energy Program Manager

Update on DOI-NREL energy collaboration in the three Pacific territories.

In August, Jewell traveled to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to deliver remarks on behalf of the United States at the Pacific Islands Forum Dialogue. She was the first Interior Secretary to participate in the Dialogue. (DOI)

# Bordallo statement on IGIA plenary session

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) released the following statement yesterday regarding a meeting of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas.

"Today's meeting of the IGIA provided the territories with a venue to raise many of our issues directly with federal officials. I appreciate the administration's continued commitment to the President's rebalance strategy to the Asia-Pacific region and their support for war claims and the realignment of Marines from Okinawa. Additionally, I continued to urge the Department of the Interior to develop guidance for the affected jurisdictions to account for the true costs of Compact-impact and asked for their support for innovative ways to offset the impact

of compact migrants on our jurisdictions.

"I also reiterated my concerns regarding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Guam. While I remain supportive of the patient protections in the ACA, I am concerned that certain aspects of the law may increase insurance rates and make insurance coverage unattainable for many on Guam, which is contrary to the intent of the legislation. I encourage HHS, the Government of Guam, and local stakeholders to work together to find creative solutions to ensuring the intent of health reform is realized in the territories.

"I look forward to building on the discussions at today's meeting and working with our federal partners to resolve many of our issues over the coming year." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former congressman Vicente "Ben" Garrido Blaz is laid to rest yesterday with full military honors at the Arlington National Cemetery.

# WASHINGTON, D.C.—Former congressman Vicente "Ben" Garrido Blaz was laid to rest yesterday with full military honors.

Delegate Madeleine Z Bor-

dallo (D-GU) joined the Blaz family in paying last respects at a Mass of Christian Burial said at the Old Post Chapel, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and interment at Arlington National

Cemetery. A eulogy was given by former congressman Duncan Hunter Sr., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who served in Congress with Blaz



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guests join the Blaz family in paying last respects at a Mass of Christian Burial said at the Old Post Chapel, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

Also in attendance were Gov. Eddie Calvo; Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (CNMI); Gov. Eloy Inos (CNMI); Speaker Peter Deleon Guerrero (CNMI); Lt. Gen. Richard Tryon, commander U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command; Vice Adm. William French, commander, Navy Installations Command; and Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao, commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

Blaz passed away on Jan. 8, 2014, at the age of 85. He is survived by his children, Thomas and Michael, their spouses, Shelane and Barbara, and five grandchildren.

"General Blaz was a true patriot and proud son of Guam who dedicated his life to our nation and people. [Yesterday], we gathered to celebrate a life well-lived, and to commit to continuing to improve our island for future generations. I will always cherish his friendship, and will miss his guidance on issues important to Guam," said Bordallo. (PR)

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### **BECQ** brigade cleanup moves to new site

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade would like to inform the general public that due to the weather forecast, the beach cleanup scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 8am will no longer be at Old Man by the Sea but will now take place at Tank Beach in Kagman. We apologize for the short notice; however, the safety of all our volunteers is important to us.

We thank all the volunteers and we hope that you all will continue joining or assisting in the cleanup brigade. Let's continue to keep our island clean!

For more information, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500. (PR)

#### Air Force training on Naval Base Guam

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The Air Force will conduct cargo aircraft delivery operations in the waters between Agat Bay and Orote Point on Naval Base Guam Feb. 26 and 27 from 8am to 10am. This exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Coast Guard and Air Force personnel will be on shore and on boats to monitor operations.

Boats, divers and base personnel are to remain clear of these areas during the dates and times indicated. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise. (PR)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# LOAD SALE direct from KMA

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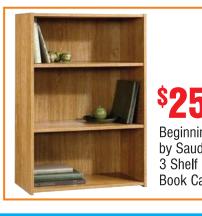














Cruz Futon Essential Home Belmont 4 Drawer Chest



\$1**79**<sup>95</sup>

Kenmore

Compact Refrigerator 3.3cu.ft.







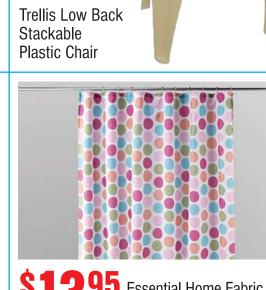
**95** Hefty 34qt Storage







Oval Carpet, 87x57cm



Easy Reach 3Step Steel Project Stool with Tray



































**MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED** 

### ATW magazine names Delta its Airline of the Year

2014 Airline of the Year award from Air Transport World magazine during the Annual Airline culture are the foundation for

Industry Achieve->> Airline is ment Awards held first U.S. in Singapore earlier this month. This carrier to is the first time for win coveted a U.S. carrier to be so recognized in a award in a decade. The ATW decade awards are among the most coveted

and valued honors in the air- of the Year, ATW editors cited line industry.

"It's an honor to have the hard work of Delta people rec-

Delta Air Lines received the World," said Richard Anderson, chief executive officer, Delta Air Lines. "Our values and

> our success. The professionalism and commitment of Delta people to our company, to one another and to our customers is unmatched."

> In selecting Delta as Airline

leadership in several categories, including innovation and leadership by executive manognized with the Airline of the agement; strong financial disci-Year award from Air Transport pline; a consistent and excellent



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Anderson, chief executive officer, Delta Air Lines accepts the Airline of the Year Award from Karen Walker, chief editor, Air Transport World magazine when ATW first notified Delta of the award in Atlanta in January



Edward H. Bastian, president, Delta Air Lines receives the Airline of the Year award from Karen Walker, chief editor, Air Transport World magazine during the Annual Airline Achievement Awards held in Singapore Feb.10.

safety record; proven leadership in community, environmental and technological endeavors; consistent high standards of customer service; and excellent employee relations.

"The airline industry, here in the U.S. and globally, has never been as competitive, so when ATW editors make their Airline of the Year selection they focus on those airlines whose leader-

ship truly stand out from the crowd through strong financial discipline, innovative thinking, superb operational and customer service standards, and excellent employee relations," said Karen Walker, ATW editorin-chief. "Delta clearly met all those standards and has demonstrable, measurable statistics to prove it. Delta and its employees thoroughly deserve this

award and I congratulate them on their achievements."

The winners and their achievements will be featured in a special section of the ATW March 2014 edition. Additionally, highlights of the gala awards will also be published in the ATW April 2014 edition.

Delta in 2013 was named No. 1 airline on the Fortune magazine "Most Admired" global airline industry list for the second time in three years, received the No. 1 ranking in the Business Travel News Annual Airline Survey for the third year in a row and was recognized as Best Domestic Airline at Travel Weekly Reader's Choice Awards, among other accolades.

Air Transport World is part of the Penton Aviation Week Network. (Delta)



Participants and instructors have their picture taken after the four-day Family Care-Giving Certificate "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop at the Palau Community College.

### Care-giving 'Train-the-Trainer' workshop at PC(

Palau Community College, in partnership with the Palau Ministry of Health and the John A. Burns School of Medicine - University of Hawaii, conducted a four-day Family Care-Giving Certificate "Train-the-

Trainer" Workshop.

The objective of this training was to preserve and strengthen the existing Pacific islander culture of caring for the elderly and homebound.

A total of 16 participants

completed the training; the workshop was well attended with four participants from Yap, three from American Samoa, one from Pohnpei, and the remainder from Palau.

Participants of the work-

shop were Allins Nobuo, Catherine Blanco Rumbaua, Liza Hideyos, Miriam Chin, Johana Ngiruchelbad, Pertina S. Albert, Petra Tun, Maria Laaken, Angelica Agapito, Georgette B. Mad, Akisi Tinai, Pasquana Isaac, Sailitafa Samoa, Faafetai T. Yandall, Josephine Lam Yuen, and

Bonnie T. Melairei.

The participants came up with an action plan to culturally adopt the curriculum to their countries, raise awareness about care-giving, secure buy-in from key stakeholders, and train family caregivers on basic care-giving knowledge and skills.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

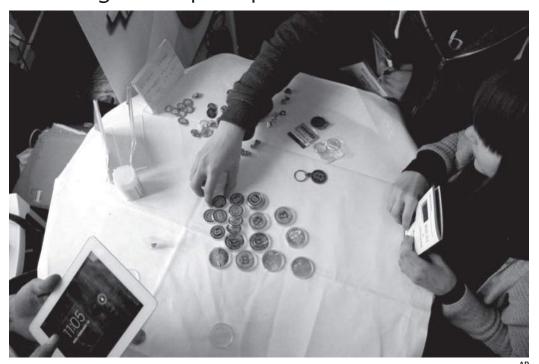
Instructors for the workshop included Dr. Ritabelle Fernandes, Dr. Shellie Williams, Dr. Sylvia Osarch, Dr. Lam Nguyen, Dr. Bret Flynn, Rufina Takashi, and Jason Nolan.

The workshop began on Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, and ended on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014. (PCC)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 17

### **Business**

### Exchange collapse spells trouble for bitcoin



In this Feb. 12, 2014 file photo, attendees of the Inside Bitcoins conference in Berlin examine Bitcoin buttons.

TOKYO (AP)—The sudden disappearance of one of the largest bitcoin exchanges only adds to the mystery and mistrust surrounding the virtual currency, which was just beginning to gain legitimacy beyond the technology enthusiasts and adventurous investors who created it.

Prominent bitcoin supporters said the apparent collapse of the Tokyo-based Mt. Gox exchange was an isolated case of mismanagement that will weed out "bad actors." But the setback raised serious questions about bitcoin's tenuous status and even more tenuous future. At least one supporter said the blow could be fatal to bitcoin's quest for acceptance by the public.

A coalition of virtual currency companies said Mt. Gox went under after secretly rack-

ing up catastrophic losses. The exchange had imposed a ban on withdrawals earlier this month.

By Tuesday, its website returned only a blank page. On Wednesday it displayed a notice to customers that said all transactions were closed "for the time being" to protect the site and customers. The collapse followed the resignation Sunday of CEO Mark Karpeles from the board of the Bitcoin Foundation, a group seeking wider use of the exotic currency.

Mt. Gox's origins are rooted in fantasy instead of finance. The service originally specialized in trading colorful cards featuring mythical wizards and derives its name from a game. The initials stand for, "Magic: The Gathering Online Exchange."

San Francisco-based wallet

service Coinbase and Chinese exchange BTC China sought to shore up confidence in the currency by saying the Mt. Gox's situation was isolated and the result of abusing users' trust. They offered no details.

"As with any new industry." there are certain bad actors that need to be weeded out, and that is what we are seeing today," the statement said.

Since its creation in 2009, bitcoin has become popular among tech enthusiasts, libertarians and risk-seeking investors because it allows people to make one-to-one transactions, buy goods and services and exchange money across borders without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties. Criminals like bitcoin for the same reasons.

Michelle Obama calls "a new norm" for today's served by public schools.

### Tesla Model S its top pick

**DETROIT** (AP)—The Tesla Model S electric sedan is Consumer Reports' top pick in this year's automotive rankings. The magazine cited the Model S's sporty performance and technological innovations, including its 225-mile range. But it acknowledged that the car is expensive. Consumer Reports paid \$89,650 for the Model S it tested. For less than a third of that price, the Toyota Prius hybrid got the nod as Consumer Reports' top green car. The magazine also cited strong fuel economy in naming the Honda Accord as the top midsize car and the BMW328i as the best sports sedan. The rankings, now in their 18th year, pick Consumer Reports' favorites among the 260 vehicles its team has recently tested.

### **Nation**

### Couple stumbles upon \$10 million worth of rare coins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A in-a-lifetime for anything, but Northern California couple out walking their dog on their property stumbled across a modern-day bonanza: \$10 million in rare, mint-condition gold coins buried in the shadow of an old tree.

Nearly all of the 1,427 coins, dating from 1847 to 1894, are in uncirculated, mint condition, said David Hall, cofounder of Professional Coin Grading Service of Santa Ana, which recently authenticated them. Although the face value of the gold pieces only adds up to about \$27,000, some of them are so rare that coin experts say they could fetch nearly \$1 million apiece.

"I don't like to say once-

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a

blunt warning to Afghan Presi-

dent Hamid Karzai, President

Barack Obama threatened on

Tuesday to withdraw all U.S.

troops from Afghanistan by

the end of this year if a crucial

security pact isn't signed—and

he ordered the Pentagon to ac-

celerate planning for just that

phone call with Karzai, Obama

indicated he was willing to

wait his mercurial counterpart

out and sign a security agree-

ment with a new Afghan presi-

dent after April elections. That

would allow the U.S. to keep

as many as 10,000 troops in

The effort seemed aimed at

marginalizing Karzai's role in

the high-stakes negotiations

over the future of the lengthy

American-led war.

At the same time, in a rare

scenario.

the country.

you don't get an opportunity to handle this kind of material, a treasure like this, ever," said veteran numismatist Don Kagin, who is representing the finders. "It's like they found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Kagin, whose family has been in the rare-coin business for 81 years, would say little about the couple other than that they are husband and wife, are middle-aged and have lived for several years on the rural property in California's Gold Country, where the coins were found. They have no idea who put them there, he said.

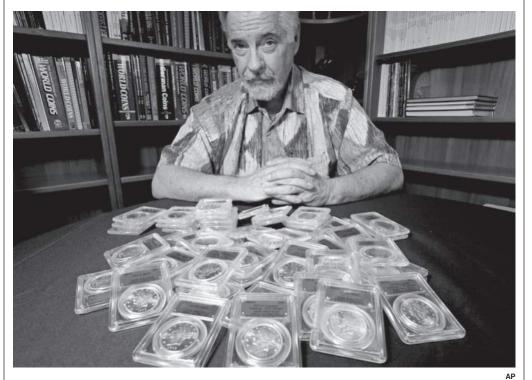
The pair are choosing to remain anonymous, Kagin said,

in part to avoid a renewed gold rush to their property by modern-day prospectors armed with metal detectors.

They also don't want to be treated any differently, said David McCarthy, chief numismatist for Kagin Inc. of Tiburon.

"Their concern was this would change the way everyone else would look at them, and they're pretty happy with the lifestyle they have today," he said.

They plan to put most of the coins up for sale through Amazon while holding onto a few keepsakes. They'll use the money to pay off bills and quietly donate to local charities, Kagin said.



David Hall, co-founder of Professional Coin Grading Service, poses with some of 1,427 Gold-Rush era U.S. gold coins, at his office in Santa Ana, Calif., Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### Apple files appeal in e-book antitrust case

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Apple filed papers on Tuesday telling a federal appeals court in New York that a judge's finding it violated antitrust laws by manipulating electronic book prices "is a radical departure" from modern antitrust law that will "chill competition and harm consumers" if allowed to stand. Apple filed its formal written arguments before the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, asking the appeals court to overturn the judgment in Apple's favor, or grant a new trial in front of a different judge. U.S. District Judge Denise Cote concluded last year that the Cupertino, Calif.-based company colluded with book publishers in 2010 to raise electronic book prices. She appointed Washington lawyer Michael Bromwich as monitor for two years after concluding Apple was not doing enough to ensure it no longer violated antitrust laws.

### Cut out iunk food ads in schools, government says

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's not just about what America's kids are getting in the lunch line. The Obama administration is moving to phase out junk food advertising on football scoreboards and elsewhere on school grounds-part of a broad effort to combat child obesity and create what

schoolchildren and future generations. "This new approach to eating and activity is not just a fad," Mrs. Obama said Tuesday as she described the proposed rules at the White House. Promotion of sugary drinks and junk foods around campuses during the school day would be phased out under the Agriculture Department rules, which are intended to ensure that marketing is brought in line with health standards that already apply to food

### **Consumer Reports names**

"We will leave open the possibility of concluding a (security agreement) with Afghanistan later this year," the White House said in a statement following the call. "However, the longer we go without a (deal), House did not publicly set the more challenging it will be a deadline for finalizing the to plan and execute any U.S.

mission." Obama's attempt to minimize Karzai's importance to U.S. decision-making underscores how fractured the relationship between the two leaders has become. Tuesday's phone call was the first direct contact between Obama and Karzai since last June. The Afghan leader has deeply irritated Washington with anti-American rhetoric, as well as with his decision this month to release 65 prisoners over the

objections of U.S. officials. The White House insists

Obama tells Pentagon to plan for Afghan pullout it won't keep any American troops in Afghanistan after December without a security agreement giving the military a legal basis for staying in the country. While the White agreement before that time, officials said the size and scope of the any U.S. mission could shrink the longer Obama waits.

Despite the troubled ties between Washington and Kabul, many of Obama's advisers want to see American troops stay in Afghanistan after the war formally concludes in December. The Pentagon envisions keeping up to 10,000 troops in Afghanistan to focus on counterterrorism and the training of Afghan security forces, though some White House advisers would prefer keeping fewer troops, if any.

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### Asia

### China calls Japan a 'trouble maker'

**BEIJING** (AP)—China on Tuesday labeled Japan a "trouble maker" that is damaging regional peace and stability, firing back at earlier criticism from Tokyo over a spike in tensions in northeast Asia.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying was responding to comments by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida that China's military expansion in the region is a concern, although Kishida stopped short of calling China a threat.

Hua told a regularly scheduled news conference that China's military posture is purely defensive and Japan is stirring up trouble with its own moves to expand its armed forces and alter its pacifist constitution. She accused Japanese officials of making inflammatory statements aimed at denying or glorifying the country's militarist past, and said Japan should explain its strategic intentions.

"I think everybody will agree with me that Japan has already become a de facto trouble-maker harming regional peace and stability," Hua said.

Hua's comments were the latest salvo in a war of words between the countries that has seen their diplomats invoke the villain from the Harry Potter books, Lord Voldemort, in describing each other's motivations. Never very warm, bilateral ties took a nosedive after Japan in 2012 nationalized a string of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that China claims as its own.

Also Tuesday, the standing committee of China's National People's Congress reviewed a proposal to designate days to commemorate the country's 1945 victory over Japan in World War II and to remember the victims of the 1937 Nanking Massacre, when Japanese troops killed large numbers of Chinese civilians.

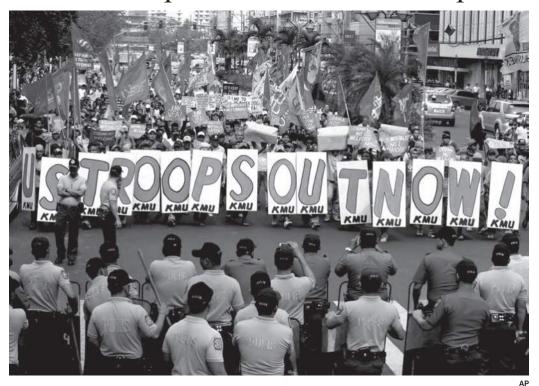
The official Xinhua News Agency said the move would reveal Japanese war atrocities while commemorating Chinese

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Kishida sought to distance his government from recent right-wing comments on World War II, calling them "regrettable" and saying they don't represent the government's views.

China's growing maritime activities and lack of transparency in military development "are common concerns of the entire region" that Japan will watch closely, Kishida said. Japan is particularly concerned about Chinese attempts to strengthen its claims to the disputed islands by sending ships into waters off the islands and creating a new air defense identification zone that overlaps them.

Asked if he sees China as a threat, Kishida called China one of the most important countries for Japan. "If China develops peacefully, it is a benefit and an opportunity for Japan, and for the region. ... In that sense, I think China is not a threat to our country."

### Anti-Obama protesters clash with PH police



Riot police prepare to prevent protesters from marching closer to U.S. Embassy Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014 in Manila, Philippines, against the forthcoming visit of U.S. President Barack Obama.

Police clashed briefly in the Philippine capital Tuesday with since 2002. Protesters say their about 300 protesters opposed to a planned visit by President Barack Obama and the continued U.S. military presence in the country.

Riot police across a road from the U.S. Embassy were pushed back by the demonstrators, prompting the police to retaliate with truncheons.

The protesters allied with the May One Movement workers' federation held a brief program of speeches denouncing U.S. imperialism in front of the seaside embassy before dispersing peacefully. No arrests were made and there were no serious injuries.

About 500 American soldiers are based in the south where they

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— have been providing Philippine troops anti-terrorism training presence violates Philippine sovereignty. The Philippine Constitution allows foreign military bases only under a treaty.

Obama is scheduled to visit the Philippines in April, part of a tour of Asia which will also take him to Japan, South Korea and Malaysia to boost diplomatic and economic ties with the region.

Elmer Labog, chairman of the labor federation, said the protest was meant to show opposition to what he called a "conspiracy" between the Philippine and American governments to maintain U.S. troops in the country by raising the "China bogey."

The Philippines, which has one of the weakest militaries in Asia, and China have conflicting claims to parts of the South China Sea.

Nearly a century of U.S. military presence in the country ended in 1992 after the Philippine Senate voted to end a lease on a naval and an air base which were then among the largest American military facilities overseas. However, seven years later the two sides signed a Visiting Forces Agreement that currently permits limited U.S. troop visits, mostly in the south where Filipino troops are battling militants.

Negotiations began last year on a new defense agreement that would allow larger numbers of U.S. troops to have temporary access to Philippine military camps and bring in aircraft, ships and other equipment.

### World

### 58 killed in Nigeria school attack

Nigeria (AP)—Islamic militants set fire to a locked dormitory at a school in northern Nigeria, then shot and slit the throats of students who tried to escape through windows during a pre-dawn attack Tuesday. At least 58 students were killed, including many who were burned alive.

They "slaughtered them like sheep" with machetes, and gunned down those who ran away, said one teacher, Adamu Garba.

Soldiers guarding a check-

point near the coed government school were mysteriously withdrawn hours before it was targeted by the militants, said the spokesman for the governor of northeastern Yobe state.

Female students were spared in the attack, said the spokesman, Abdullahi Bego, though girls and women have been abducted in the past by militants of the Boko Haram movement, whose name means "Western education is forbidden."

This time, the insurgents went to the female dormitories and told the young women to go home, get married and abandon the Western education they said is anathema to Islam, Bego said. All of the dead were teenage boys or young men.

The militants, whose struggle for an Islamic state has killed thousands and made them the biggest threat to security in Africa's top oil producer, have increasingly preyed on civilians, both Muslim and Christian. Some 300 people have died in attacks this month alone.

### Pro-Russian rally in Crimea decries Kiev 'bandits'

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine (AP)—Dozens of pro-Russian protesters rallied Tuesday in this Crimean Peninsula city, bitterly denouncing politicians in Kiev who are trying to form a new government, with some even calling for secession from Ukraine. A Russian lawmaker stoked their passions by promising that Moscow will protect them.

"Russia, save us!" they chanted.

The outburst of pro-Russian sentiment in the strategic peninsula on the Black Sea, home to a Russian naval base, came amid fears of economic collapse for Ukraine as the fractious foes of President Viktor Yanukovych failed to reach agreement on forming a new national government and said the task of assigning posts could not be completed before Thursday.

While Ukraine's politicians struggled to reorganize themselves in Kiev, a Russian flag had replaced the Ukrainian flag in front of the city council building in Sevastopol, 500 miles (800 kilometers) to the south of the capital. An armored personnel carrier and two trucks full of Russian troops made a rare appearance on the streets, vividly demonstrating Russian power in this

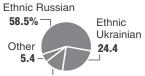
### **BELARUS POLAND** UKRAINE Donetsk MOLDOVA Rostov ROMANIA

### Flashpoint Crimea

Reports that former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych may be headed toward Crimea have sparked fears that the majority ethnic Russian peninsula could become the next flashpoint.

### At a glance

- Status Autonomous republic within Ukraine
- Size 10,077 sq. mi. (26,100 sq. km)
- Population, 2012 2 million



12.1 Crimean Tatars

• Main industries Tourism, agriculture, mining: Russian Black Sea Fleet stationed at Sevastopol

Source: BBC Graphic: Pat Carr © 2014 MCT

port city where the Kremlin's Black Sea Fleet is based.

### **History in brief**

- 1443 After centuries under Greek and Roman influence. became the center of a Tatar Khanate, then part of the Ottoman Empire
- Mid-18th century Falls under Russian influence
- 1853-1856 Crimean War -Britain and France try to limit Russian influence in the region
- 1917 Becomes autonomous republic within Russia after the Bolshevik revolution
- 1940s Occupied by Germany during World War II; Stalin deports Tartars accusing them of collaboration; many perish
- 1954 Transferred to Ukraine

protect them from the movement that drove Yanukovych Some called on Moscow to from the capital three days ago.

### Ugandan newspaper prints list of '200 top' gays

**KAMPALA**, **Uganda** (AP)— Monday's signing of the bill Kerry said in a statement. A Ugandan newspaper published a list Tuesday of what it called the country's "200 top" gays, outing some Ugandans and raising fears of violence against those named just a day after the president enacted a severe anti-gay law.

Many on the list "are scared and they need help," said Pepe Julian Onziema, a prominent Ugandan gay activist who was named in in the Red Pepper tabloid. "Some want to leave the country and they are asking to be helped."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said by President Yoweri Museveni marked "a tragic day for Uganda and for all who care about the cause of human rights."

He warned that Washington could cut aid to the East African nation over the new law, which punishes gay sex with up to life in prison.

"We are beginning an internal review of our relationship with the government of Uganda to ensure that all dimensions of our engagement, including assistance programs, uphold our anti-discrimination policies and principles and reflect our values,"

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon demanded the revision or repeal of the law, warning on Tuesday that it could fuel prejudice and harassment against gays.

The Red Pepper ran its list of names—and some pictures in a front-page story under the headline "EXPOSED!"

News editor Ben Byarabaha said the paper published the full names of only the well-known activists and tried to use nicknames for those not publicly gay. A popular Ugandan hiphop star and a Catholic priest are among those on the list.

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### Environment

### Hawaii's solar power flare-up: Too much of a good thing?

WAILUKU, Hawaii—On an island whose stock in trade is sun, and lots of it, Lawrence and Cindy Lee figured they'd be foolish not to join their neighbors and put a few solar panels on the roof.

The Lees called one of the solar contractors racing around Hawaii these days, and put in their order. Eleven months later, in October-after endless consultations, emails and a \$3,000 study required by Maui Electric Co.—they were still waiting for a permit.

"Instead of it being like they want to help you get your solar system in," Lawrence Lee said, "it's more like they don't want you to."

Solar power has grown increasingly popular across the U.S. sunbelt, but hardly anywhere has it taken hold as it has in Hawaii. Friendly tax credits, the highest average electricity rates in the nation and the most aggressive renewable energy program adopted by any state have sent homeowners scrambling to install photovoltaic systems on their roofs.

The number of solar systems across the island state has doubled every year since 2007, with nearly 20,000 units installed. But with homeowners and businesses now producing nearly 140 megawatts of their own power—the equivalent of a medium-size power plant—and



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Cindy and Lawrence Lee were delayed almost a year in installing a photovoltaic solar system on the roof of their home on the island of Maui because of concerns the electrical grid was becoming overloaded with solar installations

solar tax credits biting seriously into the state budget, Hawaii legislators and electrical utilities are tapping the brakes.

Solar tax credits cost the state \$173.8 million this year in foregone revenues, up from \$34.7 million in 2010, prompting state tax authorities to announce this month they will temporarily cut the tax credit in half, effective Jan. 1.

Hawaiian Electric Co. on Oahu, which oversees subsidiary utilities on Maui and the Big Island, has warned that the explosion of do-it-yourself solar could threaten parts of the power grid with the possibility of power fluctuations or sporadic blackouts as the power generated by homeowners-unpredictable and subject to sudden swings—exceeded output from power plants in some areas.

So rapid is the growth that Hawaiian Electric at one point proposed a moratorium on solar installations, a plan that met with immediate outrage and was quickly withdrawn. But utilities are requiring expensive "interconnection" studies, such as the one the Lees had to do, in solar-saturated areas to analyze

what impact a new unit is going to have on the utility system before it can connect to the grid.

'The last three months are turning into a madhouse of solar here on Oahu," Hawaiian Electric spokesman Peter Rosegg said. "We're doing everything we can to get in as much solar as possible, but there's a strong sense that we're kind of at a crossroads here in trying to deal with these issues.

Hawaii has become a solar laboratory for the rest of the country. Many states are experiencing sun-power booms, but few have had their grids overwhelmed to the extent seen in Hawaii.

"No one knows exactly when this is going to take place, but we are approaching a red line. ... We will reach a point where they will not accept any more generating capacity," said Marco Mangelsdorf, who runs a private solar company, ProVision Solar, and teaches energy politics at the University of Hawaii in Hilo.

Historically, power is supplied to homes and businesses from big central power plants, easily controlled by engineers who dial up the turbines when demand peaks, such as on hot afternoons when customers come home and turn on air conditioners. But the push for renewable energy has introduced into the equation "non-firm" powerelectricity generated by wind, which comes and goes, or sun, which can suddenly disappear behind a cloud.

As customers generate more than they need and feed the excess back into the grid for others to use, it makes managing the system much more complex. What happens when a cloud passes over and dozens of rooftop units suddenly grind to a halt? What's to be done on a sunny autumn day, when rooftop solar systems are producing way more power than the grid can use?

The problem is especially pronounced in Hawaii, where each island has its own isolated

power grid and can't quickly compensate with power generated elsewhere. The result, if not carefully managed, can be computer-killing power surges (in cases of excess generation), flickering lights, isolated blackouts or worse.

"It can crash the entire system," said Robert Alm, executive vice president of Hawaiian Electric.

California, which has more than 120,000 solar energy systems online, doesn't have Hawaii's serious overload problems but has recently faced its own debate over how much can be paid to solar-equipped homeowners for power they feed into the grid. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District is studying Hawaii's operations to learn what happens when solar power inundates a power system.

"As an engineer, you always want to look at the worst-case scenario. Well, they have it," project manager Elaine Sison-Lebrilla said.

Hawaii finds itself pushing the envelope not just because of its abundant sunshine. A bigger driver has been the state's reliance on oil to fuel its power plants. Oil is always more expensive than natural gas, but prices shot up even higher last year when Japan's nuclear disaster sent demand, and soon prices, skyrocketing on the Asian markets where Hawaii buys its supplies.

### SPC helps Fiji fight dengue outbreak

NOUMEA, New Caledonia— The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has made a contribution to Fiji's Ministry of Health for the purchase of insecticides to carry out mosquito control interventions for the next three months

This contribution comes in response to Minister for Health Neil Sharma's recent call for assistance from development partners to help Fiji respond to the current dengue outbreak.

"This financial support from SPC is an unusual response related to the specific nature of the worsening dengue epidemic in Fiji and the type of request that was placed to us by Fiji Ministry of Health," said Dr. Yvan Souarès, deputy director of SPC's Public Health Division. "We are not a donor agency. Our role is to deliver capacity-building activities and scientific and expert advice to our 22 Pacific Island members."

In addition to this contribution, experts from SPC's Public Health Division will continue to provide technical assistance and advice to Fiji Ministry of Health in response to this outbreak in collaboration with their partners from the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SPC has recently repeatedly publicly voiced its concerns about the unprecedented and increasing pressure the whole Pacific Islands region is currently suffering from mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and zika virus infections.

### **Background**

SPC works in the following sectors: fisheries, agriculture, forestry, water resources, geoscience, transport, energy, disaster risk management, public health, statistics, education, human rights, and culture, and cross-cutting areas including climate change, food security, gender and youth issues.

SPC member countries and territories: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands. Nauru. New Caledonia. New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America. Vanuatu. Wallis and Futuna. (SPC)

**By DAN NAKASO** 

A proliferation of free applications turn water conservation into a game while letting consumers save both water and money around the house.

Many are aimed at both children and adults and award points through quizzes and by adopting water-saving tips. Some turn water conservation into a competitive game with other family members to see who can save the most water and money—by, say, taking the quickest shower.

And at least one makes it easy to take photos of neighbors who drown their lawns in water and then report them to local water authorities.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District does not have a water conservation app of its own. But it does have an online water use calculator on its website that was developed during the 2010 drought to help customers understand the cost of using too much water.

So, during the current drought, the water district supports any apps that let water users track their personal water consumption through their

handheld devices.

"Anything that people can do to identify ways to use water more efficiently, we're all for it," said Marty Grimes, spokesman for the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Lori Palmquist, of Richmond, Calif.-based Water-Wonk, is getting ready to launch three apps aimed at helping commercial landscapers save money by better managing their water.

But Palmquist is also in favor of apps aimed at helping average consumers save money by cutting down on their own water use at home.

"Whether it's apps that allow them to find leaks or cut down on their water use indoors or outdoors, it's essential-really, really essential—for everyone to have this information," Palmquist said.

Many free apps, like the National Ground Water Association's water usage calculator, take a straight-forward approach to estimating water use through dishwashers, toilets and showers.

Others, such as the Drip Detective app, up the ante by having users tap their screens every time a drop falls out of a leak-

ing faucet. Or they can measure the rate of a more serious leak, whether by teaspoon, tablespoon, pint or gallon.

Water-saving apps turn conservation into a money-saving game

Either way, Drip Detective then calculates the amount of water—and money—being wasted every day, week, month and year based on your current water bill.

Like other water-conservation gaming apps, H20 Tracker awards points by correctly answering quiz questions such as whether more water is spent taking a bath or washing a car.

Unlike most water-conservation game apps, however, H20 Tracker, makes it easy for users to inform on their water-wasting

"Is someone letting water run down the street?" reads the description for H20 Tracker. "Let your city know! You can even take a picture and send it with your report."

Other game apps are clearly aimed at educating a new generation about the importance of water conservation, such as "Captain Plop's Water-Saving Mission" by the South Australian Water Corp., one of several Australian organizations that have developed water conservation apps.

It's basically a children's ebook about the adventures of a colorful blue cartoon character named Captain Plop whose head is shaped like a water drop.

Readers follow Captain Plop as he navigates the inside of a home's pipes. Along the way, Captain Plop offers lessons on the importance of saving water by turning off the tap while brushing teeth or taking shorter

Another game app, "Tap The Tap," also uses a cartoon icon in the form of a water-conscious camel to teach the importance of water conservation.

Throughout the which involves tapping on the correct plumbing pipe, players are encouraged to pledge to use water wisely.

Whether it's a staid app about money that's wasted through a leaking faucet, or a colorful interactive children's game, Palmquist likes the idea that consumers can access so many free, water-saving tools through an app.

"For most of us," Palmquist said, "we just don't know how much water we're wasting. All we know is that water comes into the house and flows back out. So anything—like an app that helps educate us is good."

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### Life & Style

### Surgery, wigs, tape: Stars' red carpet secrets

By SANDY COHEN AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The flawless looks about to be unveiled on the Oscars red carpet have been months in the making and require an army of experts.

With perhaps the highest concentration of cameras anywhere in the world that night, plus millions of viewers keenly critiquing every outfit, Oscar's red carpet is the ultimate runway, where designers and their muses are discovered and celebrated. Hair and makeup trends are established. New style-setting stars are crowned. And sartorial scorn is heaped upon those who make even the slightest misstep.

All that perfection takes a lot of preparation. Here's a look at the standard steps and secret tricks that stars employ to get red carpet ready:

#### THE SKIN

That dewy complexion isn't all makeup. Stars spend at least a week prepping for an Oscar appearance, says celebrity makeup artist Melanie Mills. They might do a cleanse to expel toxins and drop weight, she said, along with seaweed wraps

to further detoxify and slim down. Mills also recommends a traditional Korean spa-style body scrub a few days prior to the show "to really get that skin exfoliated and super glowing." A facial and spray tan follow.

Show-day makeup takes about two hours, she said. One of her secrets: using body makeup before foundation for a "sunny, gorgeous, lit-fromwithin glow" that stays on all day—and won't transfer onto men's jackets during the many industry-requisite hugs.

"You should also mist yourself with a setting spray," she said, "especially if you're going to be schmoozing with a lot of men in black tuxedoes.'

#### **THE HAIR**

Skilled hairstylists can give stars a temporary eye lift with a lace-front wig, says Michael Shaun Corby, global creative director for Alterna Haircare.



In this Jan. 12, 2014 file photo, Lupita Nyong'o arrives in a stunning Ralph Lauren Collection red caped gown at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Using nylon thread, he sews a patch of lace into tight pincurls, which helps lift the brows and smooth wrinkles around the eyes.

wig and no one knows our little secret!" he said.

Hair extensions take hours of preparation, he said, "because we carefully sew individual wefts of human hair together in a multitude of colors to get the exact look and texture for the star."

'The stars need perfection on the red carpet," he said, "and we give it to them."

#### THE BODY

Besides a clean diet of healthy smoothies the week before the big show, trainer Harley Pasternak recommends that his Oscar-bound clients take at least 12,000 steps a day and do resistance exercises that improve their posture.

"When you're on the red carpet," he said, "it's really all about confidence and posture."

Stars who need last-minute help slimming trouble spots could try VaserShape, a treatment shown to reduce inches from thighs and bellies in about 45 minutes.

Botox and facial fillers can be done a few days before the ceremony, but face lifts, liposuction and the increasingly popular butt implants need to

"Then we top it with a \$7,000 be done months in advance, different areas without it seemsays celebrity plastic surgeon Dr. Peter Fodor, who estimates "at least 80 percent" of the stars on the Oscar carpet have done something surgical to enhance their appearance.

> "If the work is done right, it's undetectable," he said.

#### THE CLOTHES

Stylists scour the fashion shows in New York, London, Paris and Milan to find the freshest looks for the Academy Awards, says stylist Brad Goreski.

Once found, what goes underneath and alongside are priorities. Custom and couture dresses have built-in foundations, he said, but other outfits need special consideration.

"You never want to see a visible panty line, ever," he said. "VPL is something I can't deal with." The seamless, invisible Commandos are a possibility, as is actually going without any underwear beneath a long dress.

Double-stick tape is a stylist's No. 1 tool. Besides keeping fabric in place, it can also create the appearance of firmer skin, Goreski said.

"In a very revealing dress, it can help to tighten the skin in ing that way," he said. "You know, pull a little wrinkle or something like that."

His key to making a red carpet splash? Color.

"Bright colors make people happy," said the stylist. "And those are also the (photos) people will run in the magazines."

Even men are getting more colorful. Supporting-actor nominee Jared Leto wore a bronze jacket to the Oscar Nominees Luncheon, and of course there's Pharrell Williams' attention-getting hat.

### THE ACCESSORIES

■ Shoes: They're not comfortable and they're not going to be. "If we feel it makes the look, we go for it," Goreski said.

■ Clutch: What actually goes into those impossibly tiny clutch purses? Fitting in the essentials is a major red carpet challenge. The phone goes in first, then money and ID. Corby recommends at least three hairpins and a hairband, plus a miniature can of hairspray, if possible. Mills suggests a "lip product," clear eyelash glue, blotting papers and a small compact.

"It's a little bit of a puzzle piece," Goreski said. "It's like Tetris inside of those purses."

### 16th-century Korean paintings found in Honolulu

**HONOLULU** (AP)—The Honolulu Museum of Art has discovered two paintings from late 16th-century Korea in its collection, including one that's been called an "earth-shattering" find.

"This is like discovering a lost Vermeer," said Shawn Eichman, curator of Asian art at the years, helped catalog the musemuseum, referring to the Dutch master, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

The paintings are from the estate of Richard Lane, an art collector and dealer. Lane, who lived in Japan for about 50 um's James Michener collection of Japanese prints. He left his personal library to the museum when he died in 2002.

When museum officials went to Japan to claim the materials, they came across his separate

personal collection. It contained some 20,000 items, including more than 3,000 paintings, books made from woodblocks, and other artifacts. The museum acquired the entire collection for about \$26,000 in 2003, but without a catalog, it was unclear

what it contained.

Asian art experts have been studying the pieces over the past

Many paintings in the collection were initially identified as "Chinese, question mark; Japanese, question mark; Korean, question mark."

Korean paintings from the late 16th century are difficult to

identify in part because so few survived Japanese invasions, which started in 1592 and lasted until 1596.

In January, a group of Korean experts—including the world's leading expert on Korean art, Chung Woo-Thak of Dongguk University—came to Hawaii after initially studying some photos the museum had sent.

### Neighbors foil attempt to steal wall, Banksy mural

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Neighbors in New Orleans foiled what police say was an attempt to steal a chunk of cinderblock wall bearing a painting created by the world-renowned graffiti artist Banksy.

The building's owner called police Friday evening, saying someone was attempting to cut out the painting, which Banksy had created after Hurricane Katrina, said Officer Garry Flot, a police spokesman. By the time of that call, he said, two suspects were gone and the mural, known locally as Umbrella Girl or Rain Girl, was still there. The painting and the long holes that had been cut around it are now shielded by plywood.

The mural is among more than a dozen made in 2008 in New Orleans by the elusive British artist, who is perhaps the world's best-known street artist. Banksy's works have sold at auction for as much as \$1.1 million. He came to New Orleans as Hurricane Gustav was heading toward Louisiana. The images he left were generally related to the 2005 hurricane, Katrina. Well known in New Orleans, they have been the subject of news articles in the past.

Many have since been painted over or destroyed. This one shows a mournful girl holding an umbrella from which rain pours onto her as she extends a cupped hand into the open air

Word of activity at the site appeared Friday afternoon on Facebook, with pictures showing a wide gap above the painting. The work was going on behind a plywood screen.

Photographer Cheryl Gerber had noticed the plywood hiding the painting not far from her house earlier in the day while driving home from an assignment. She asked a man sitting at the back of a nearby rental truck what was going on.

"He said, 'Oh, the picture is going to London for a big show," she recounted.

She got home and posted a photo with the message, "Bye Bye Banksy! My neighborhood's most famous little girl is moving to London."

Clay Lapeyrouse was alarmed when he saw a Facebook picture of the activity.

"It just didn't add up to me. The whole scenario seemed off," Lapeyrouse, operations manager at Louisiana Fresh Produce, said Tuesday.

It was his day off, so he went to take a look for himself.

When he asked to see a permit for work on the vacant building, the two men could not provide one. They told him the building's owners wanted to send the painting to a museum. "They couldn't tell me who the owner was or the name of the museum," Lapeyrouse said.

"I left and came back and called the police and called every authority I could think of in the city," he said.

There are differing accounts of when police were actually notified. Lapeyrouse said that the



A mural by the artist Banksy, is seen in New Orleans, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014.

first time he called, a 911 dispatcher told him "they sent someone out there already and the gentleman told them the same story they had told me."

Flot, meanwhile, said the only record for a call reporting an attempted theft at 1034 North Rampart Street was from the owner about 5:15 p.m., and the first officer was sent about 7:45 p.m.

Lapeyrouse said he stayed as long as he could, but finally left to get his dogs from day care. When he returned the men had gone, but Lapeyrouse stuck around in case they came back. More neighbors showed up. Lapeyrouse said he also tore down the plywood screen.

John Guarnieri, office manager at an architectural firm and a board member of the Bywater Neighborhood Association, said eventually a former tenant of the building arrived and was able to give the name of the owner's attornev.

Flot said that after the owner contacted police, they began an investigation. However, the identities of the suspects remain unknown.

Neighbors said a guard hired by the owner arrived Friday evening. A guard was still there Tuesday. A new plywood shield was erected, keeping the painting out of reach.

New Orleans resident Charlie Varley, who is interested in art and grew up south of London, also saw the man chopping at the wall. Varley said the man told him he was a Los Angeles "art handler" working for the building owners, who were sending it to the Tate Modern—one of four Tate museums holding Britain's national art collection.

### Bieber bodyguard and driver arrested in Atlanta

**SANDY SPRINGS, Georgia** (AP)—A security guard and driver for pop singer Justin Bieber have been arrested near Atlanta and charged with stealing a photographer's camera.

Sandy Springs, Georgia, Police Capt. Steve Rose said in a statement that Bieber was at an entertainment complex north of the Georgia capital Tuesday evening when 32-year-old bodyguard Hugo Hesny got into a confrontation with a photographer who he said had gotten too close to the singer.

Rose said Hesny and 49-yearold driver Terrance Johnson followed the photographer to a parking lot and took his camera.

Rose said the two were caught as they were pulling up to a house Bieber is renting in the area. Rose said Bieber was not involved and the camera has been recovered.

It was not known if Hesny and Johnson had attorneys.



In this Dec. 18, 2013 file photo, Singer Justin Bieber arrives at the premiere of the feature film "Justin Bieber's Believe" at Regal Cinemas L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

### Baldwin becomes meddling newsman on 'Law & Order'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alec Baldwin is putting a twist on his rocky relationship with the media: He's playing a meddling newspaperman on a NBC drama.

The network said Tuesday that Baldwin guest stars as a New York columnist on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." His character questions the motives of police investigating a



Baldwin

as a possible hate crime.

rape case

The episode is directed by series star Mariska

Hargitay and airs March 19. NBC says Hargitay's charac-

ter, police Sgt. Olivia Benson, goes "head to head" with the writer played by Baldwin when his reporting interferes with the investigation.

Baldwin has had run-ins with photographers and said in a wide-ranging article for New York magazine that he despises the media and intends to reclaim his privacy.

### As I Lay Dying singer admits seeking wife's murder

VISTA, California (AP)—The lead singer of Grammy-nominated metal band As I Lay Dying pleaded guilty Tuesday to trying to hire someone to kill his estranged wife.

Timothy Lambesis, 32, remains free on \$2 million bond until he is sentenced May 2 on one count of solicitation of murder in Vista Superior Court, north of San Diego.

Lambesis was recorded telling an undercover agent that he wanted his wife killed, according to prosecutors. The investigation began last April after Lambesis allegedly told a personal trainer at his gym that he wanted to get rid of his wife.

The undercover agent, San Diego County Sheriff's Officer Howard Bradley, testified last year that Lambesis met him at an Oceanside bookstore in May and said he wanted his wife "gone."

Bradley said he asked Lambesis directly if he wanted his wife killed, and the singer replied, "'Yes, I do."

Lambesis said his wife, Meggan Lambesis, had restricted his visits with their three adopted children after they separated in September 2012, Bradley testified at a preliminary hearing. The singer also told the agent that he was angry that Meggan Lambesis would get a large share of his income in a

divorce settlement.

Bradley said Lambesis told him at the end of their meeting, "Just to clarify, just so you know, I do want her dead."

As I Lay Dying formed in San Diego in 2000 and has released six albums, including 2007's "An Ocean Between Us," which reached No. 8 on Billboard's charts. A single from the album, "Nothing Left," was nominated for a Grammy for top metal performance.

The band plays in an aggressive style that features lightning-speed metal guitar riffs. The group's philosophical lyrics have attracted a following of Christian rock fans.

# PBS reporter Miles O'Brien recounts amputation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—PBS science correspondent Miles O'Brien said Tuesday his left arm was amputated above the elbow after an apparently minor injury put his life in jeopardy.

In a blog post on his personal website Tuesday, which was verified by PBS, O'Brien recounted the Feb. 12 blow to his arm he suffered while on assignment in Asia and the medical emergency that followed.

He was diagnosed with "acute compartment syndrome," O'Brien said, in which blocked blood flow in an enclosed space in the body can cause life-threatening consequences.

Part of his arm was removed in a choice between "a life and a limb," O'Brien said, quoting his doctor. He



O'Brie

is grateful to be alive, the PBS reporter said.

O'Brien has continued working despite the ordeal, PBS spokeswoman Anne Bell said.

The former CNN science and space correspondent covers science for "PBS NewsHour" and is a correspondent for public TV's documentary series "Frontline" and the National Science Foundation's Science Nation online magazine.

According to his blog, O'Brien was securing cases filled with camera gear on a cart as he wrapped up a reporting trip to Japan and the Philippines. One of the cases fell onto his left forearm, he wrote, adding, "It hurt, but I wasn't all '911' about it."

The arm was sore and swollen the next day but worsened on the next, Feb. 14, and he sought medical care. O'Brien did not detail where he was and PBS couldn't immediately provide the information.

### Boss who's object of gossip needs a word to the wise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** Should I or shouldn't I tell my boss that more than a few people have come to me asking if he is fooling around with a young woman here in the office?

He is married; she is not. They spend a lot of time together "just visiting," laughing and obviously flirting. They have also been seen coming and go-



DearAbby

ing together, having lunch together every day, etc.

My reaction is that whether they are or aren't, it isn't my business. A little voice keeps telling me that, as his personal secretary, he may want to be made aware that people are talking about him behind his back, and I do feel protective and a sense of loyalty to him. Understand that I do not want to discuss it with him, have verification, denial or anything else—only to give him the information.

VACILLATING IN OHIO

DEAR VACILLATING: If there is anything going on in your employer's business that distracts from the work his employees are doing, he should be made aware.

**DEAR ABBY:** A few years ago, I relocated to a new state and bought my first home. I have enjoyed the privacy I have had while living on my own. However, because of the economy, I may need to rent out my extra room to make ends meet.

I have gotten used to a clothing-optional lifestyle and spend most of my time outdoors sunning, swimming and doing yard work in the buff. I also enjoy being indoors lounging, doing chores and sleeping the same way.

Would it be OK for me to advertise for someone who also enjoys this? Can I continue my lifestyle "au naturel" or must I go back to covering?

NEVADA NUDE DUDE

DEAR NUDE DUDE: While practically anything goes in the want ads and on the Internet, your best bet would be to Google "nudists (or naturists) in Nevada." When you do, you will find contact information for nudist resorts and clubs, and your chances of finding a renter who won't be shocked or offended will be better.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I love each other and have three beautiful children, but we struggle in our marriage because of the stress of daily life. Lack of money has taken a toll. Sometimes we both work two jobs. Other times we find ourselves faced with difficult choices—like whether to buy groceries, or pay the electric bill or the mortgage. (We often can't do all three.)

I know we're not the only family in this situation. You often advise people to seek guidance from a professional counselor. Can you share any resources for those of us who do not have the money or the insurance coverage to pay for counseling?

#### HOLDING ON IN ARKANSAS

DEAR HOLDING ON: You are far from the only family who is trying to cope with little money and difficulty finding steady work. Many thousands of families are in the same situation—and it is stressful for marriages and relationships.

Because you are unable to afford a private therapist, contact your county department of mental health and ask what services are available for people with limited resources. The psychology department at your nearest college or university may also be able to help during this difficult time.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

### **SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

### Man gets 8 months for One Direction bomb threat

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (AP)—A man will serve eight months in federal prison for calling in a phony bomb threat to a Pennsylvania arena before a concert last summer by boy band One Direction. Prosecutors said 47-year-old William H. Klein was sentenced after pleading guilty Tuesday to a charge of interstate communication with threat to injure. U.S. Attorney Peter Smith said Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, which runs Hersheypark Stadium, received a call July 5 during which a male caller says, "If One Direction plays tomorrow, the stadium will blow up." Smith said the call was tracked to a pay phone at a 7-Eleven in New Jersey, and Klein was identified from surveillance footage. The stadium was placed on lockdown before the concert, followed by a bomb sweep and a check of concertgoers' bags.

### Speed may be cause of Hayek brother's deadly crash LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say

speed may be a factor in a deadly crash involving Salma Hayek's brother. Lt. Andrew Neiman tells the Los Angeles Times that 40-year-old Sami Hayek may have been going too fast on a curvy stretch of Sunset Boulevard when he lost control of a high-powered Ford GT Sunday afternoon. Neiman says the muscle car fishtailed, crossed into oncoming traffic and hit a pickup truck. The crash broke Hayek's ribs and killed his passenger, photographer and Grammy-winning art director Ian Cuttler Sala. The pickup driver suffered a broken foot. Neiman says no drugs or alcohol were involved. The actress's younger brother is a furniture designer. Efforts to reach him and Salma Hayek were unsuccessful. According to his website, the 43-year-old Cuttler won a Grammy for his design of the "Johnny Cash: The Legend" music box set.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE 22 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

### **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

#### **Garfield**® By Bill Waterson

#### By Jim Davis















### Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

### The Duplex

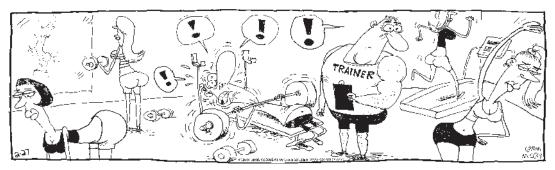
By Glenn McCoy











#### **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer 20 Cattle 55 Long **ACROSS** 34 Yoopers' home st. 1 Last call? story year's 36 Disen-56 Undo a 22 Backing frosh cumber dele 23 Incite 37 Probabil-24 Muppet 5 Sleeping. **DOWN** perhaps master 38 Appear-9 Junior 1 Lip Henson 12 Malaria ance 2 Curved 25 Subsymptom 40 Indefinite molding machine 13 Bellow article 3 Brownish gun 26 In 14 Ostrich's 41 Couspurple 4 Loner isolation cousin teau's 15 Della gear 5 Bohemi-27 "Behold!" 43 Baffler Street. 29 On in an for 47 Space-6 Slithery vears squeezer 30 Realty ad instance craft com-17 Castilian 7 Corn partment abbr. hero, with 48 Modular. 35 Fireplace spike as a sofa 8 Laundroledge 18 Fitting 37 Toppers 51 Hearty mat 19 Overact brew fixture for Whop-21 Kipling 52 Press 9 Backed a pers 39 Refuge poem 53 Peacemotion 22 Cookkeeping 10 Leave out 40 Blackbird 11 Undraped 41 Unwantwear? org. 24 Equitable 54 Crazed 16 Sprite ed email **42** Pop 27 2013 Solution time: 25 mins. Joaquin choice Phoenix 43 Sicilian movie spouter 28 Blood-44 Summerhound's time clue pest 31 Noun-to-45 Partner 46 Greatly verb suffix 49 Mound 32 Past stat 33 Shade 50 Gear provider tooth

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Yesterday's answer 2-27

For answers to today's crossword, call. 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Josh Groban 33: Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas 43: Donal Logue, 48; Howard Hesseman, 74.

Happy Birthday: Don't fold under pressure or let anything get you down. Take action and make things happen, and you will find a way to turn any negative you face into a positive this year. Opportunities are heading your way, but strategy and preparation will be required to measure the degree of success you can achieve. Embrace change. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 30, 38, 42, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sharing is fine, but only if you receive something of equal value in return. Resentment will set in if you have been taken for granted. Protect your possessions and refrain from donating. It's

time to put your needs first. ���� TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your conversations light and free from gossip. Don't make promises that will end up causing emotional stress. Acquiring knowledge will open doors to new friendships. Changes must be made for the right reasons in order to bring the best results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let laziness or a lack of realism stand between you and your success. Stick to what you do best and focus on getting ahead and you will reach your goal. The motives behind someone's assistance may be questionable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have to be imaginative and prepared to wheel and deal in order to get things done on time and to your satisfaction. Simplicity, directness and affordability should all be incorporated into whatever you decide to pursue. OOO

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Whether money is owed to you or by you, it's time to pay up. Set a budget or payment plan that is doable for you or the person who owes you. A partnership will falter if equality isn't maintained.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socialize with people who have something to offer. Put greater emphasis on the way you present and promote who you are, how you look and what you have to offer. Love is on the rise and romance will brighten your personal life. ���

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participation will make the difference. You can sit back and wait, or you can be forward and go after what you want. Don't let a lazy attitude or demanding people be the reason you remain stationary. The pressure is on to get cracking. OOOOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's important to ask for a straight answer when dealing with emotional matters. Don't confuse issues by making excuses or letting others get away with something that will ultimately end up being your responsibility. Take action. ••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Address issues that have been hanging over your head. Be proactive and precise and you will get to the bottom of a situation that needs proper attention. Make a good decision, move or change in your life.

**EUGENIA** LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



investment that needs to be altered or a friendship that is dragging you down, the time to act is now. Protect your position and your rights.

> AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look, see and do. Don't wait to be told or for someone else to take over. Size up your situation and do something about it. Whether you are concerned with a health, financial or legal issue, now is the time to act.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Weed

out confusion by taking care of business

pertaining to your past. Whether it is an

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An unpredictable attitude will confuse the people around you. You may know what you are striving to achieve, but someone looking out for you may not be able to see the method behind the measures you are taking. Share your thoughts. 🛇 🗸 🗸

Birthday Baby: You are a creative entrepreneur. You are a self-starter and a participant.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

**Conceptis Sudoku** 

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

	Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer									
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©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

2/27

#### WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CJRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY: DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The lottover letters

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Aroma, Bag, Baked, Butter, Chicken, Cornmeal, Crispy, Crunchy, Curry, Dehydrated, Dessert, Dips, Flavors, Flaxseed, Fried, Fritos, Garlic, Honey, Hot, Lays, Lime, Noodle, Oil, Onion, Organic, Party, Pizza, Ranch, Rice, Roasted, Salty, Scoop, Size, Snack, Sour, Spicy, Taco, Tasty, Tortilla, Triangle, Twists, Vegetable, White Cheddar, Whole-grain, Wide, Zesty Yesterday's Answer: ABSCAM

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

# ASSIFIEDA

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### Harden scores 43 in Rockets rout of Kings

Calif. (AP) — James Harden spent the fourth quarter smiling on the Houston Rockets' bench. DeMarcus Cousins finished the

final period in the Sacramento Kings' locker room.

Their performances were just as different on the floor, too.

Harden scored a season-high 43 points in three quarters, and the Rockets routed the Kings 129-103 on Tuesday night after Cousins was ejected for vehemently arguing with an official.

"These are the type of wins that we need, especially late in the season, to lock down and focus," Harden said.

Harden helped Houston go ahead by 25 points in the first quarter, 31 in the second and 33 in the third. He shot 11 of 20 from the floor, made 15 of 16 free throws and added eight assists, three steals and two rebounds.

Dwight Howard left briefly after banging his right knee but returned to finish with 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Chandler Parsons had 10 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who have won 10 of their last 11 games.

"You get a big lead early you're always a little concerned about keeping everybody's interests. They did a nice job," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said.

Cousins had 16 points and six rebounds for the Kings before needing to be restrained after getting ejected in the third quarter. He picked up his NBA-leading 14th and 15th technical fouls.

"He lost his composure, that's all I saw, and then he got thrown out of the game. It's disappointing. But to be honest, I'm more disappointed about how we played," Kings coach Michael Malone said. "Do I condone his actions? No. not at all. Does he have to handle himself better? Sure he does. We just need to get him to understand that we don't need him to get kicked out of the ball game."

Cousins did not speak with reporters but wrote on Twitter: "Disappointed with the way I acted out on the court tonight. I want to apologize and say sorry to my team and the fans for letting them down."

Rudy Gay added 25 points and six assists, and Ben McLemore scored 15 points for a Sacramento team that looked nothing like the one that beat the Rockets twice previously this season. The teams split four games.

The Rockets outshot Sacramento 56.9 percent to 40 percent. It was the most points the Kings had allowed all season, surpassing a 125-117 loss at Denver on Jan. 26.

Sacramento was trying to

win three consecutive games for only the second time all season. Instead, Harden and the Rockets turned the game into a layup line.

Harden had 22 points and four assists in the first quarter to help Houston go ahead 42-17. The only downer during the run came when Howard and Cousins banged knees. Howard limped to the locker room and returned with black leggings underneath his shorts midway through the second quarter.

"It still hurts. I'll just try to do whatever I can to prevent my knee from getting too stiff to where I can't play," said Howard, who hopes to start again Wednesday night at the Los Angeles Clippers.

Even while Howard and Harden sat out, the Kings never halted Houston's quickstrike offense.

Jeremy Lin's uncontested layup gave the Rockets a 50-19 lead with 9:49 remaining before the half. Malone called timeout, and fans showered the home team with boos.

Sacramento sliced Houston's lead to 69-51 at the half before Cousins completely lost his composure when the Rockets roared back in the third quarter.

Officials called Cousins for a technical after he was whistled for a foul against Howard and shouted at them. Cousins picked up his fifth personal foul moments later, then got called for another technical foul - earning an automatic ejection - after screaming in the face of official Courtney Kirkland during a timeout.

#### Trail Blazers 100, **Nuggets 95**

In Denver, Damian Lillard made up for the absence of fellow All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge by scoring 31 points in the Portland Trail Blazers' 100-95 win over the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night.

Lillard scored 12 in the third quarter when it looked as if the Blazers were headed for a

blowout win, but he saved his biggest shots for late in the fourth after the Nuggets had trimmed an 18-point deficit to two. Lillard helped Portland over-

come a terrific performance by Denver's J.J. Hickson, who pulled down a career-high 25 rebounds, including 15 on the offensive side. Hickson led the

Nuggets to a 64-41 advantage on the glass.

Aldridge missed his fourth straight game with a strained left groin. But the Blazers had six players score in double figures, including Nicolas Batum's 16 points.

Randy Foye led Denver with 17 points.

Denver again was without

Ty Lawson, who leads the free throws to give Chicago a Nuggets with averages of 18 points and 8.8 assists. He's missed seven straight games with a broken rib.

#### Pacers 118, Lakers 98

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 12 of his 20 points in the third quarter, Evan Turner had 13 points in his Pacers debut, and Indiana improved its league-leading record to 43-13.

Kent Bazemore finished with a career-high 23 points and Jodie Meeks added 15 for the Lakers (19-38), who have the worst record in the West. The loss also ended Los Angeles' three-game winning streak at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

The Lakers stayed closer than expected through the first  $2\frac{1}{2}$  quarters and trailed just 59-58 early in the third.

But George then scored 10 points in a decisive 14-5 spurt that gave Indiana an 80-68 lead with 2:58 to go in the period.

George had seven rebounds and six assists despite spending the entire fourth quarter on the bench with most of Indiana's starters.

#### **Bulls 107, Hawks 103**

In Atlanta, Mike Dunleavy scored 22 points and Joakim Noah had 20 points and 12 rebounds, helping the Bulls hold on for the road win.

Carlos Boozer had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Chicago, and Kirk Hinrich scored 14 points, including six free throws in the final 44 seconds. The Bulls have won six of seven.

Jeff Teague had 26 points but made two costly turnovers late in the game for the Hawks, who have lost nine of 10. Shelvin Mack had 17 points.

The Bulls led most of the second half but never pushed the advantage to double figures.

With 43.2 seconds remaining, officials reviewed and confirmed a questionable foul called on DeMarre Carroll on Hinrich's 3-point attempt. Hinrich made the three 104-103 lead.

#### Timberwolves 110, **Suns 101**

In Phoenix, Kevin Love had 33 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, powering Minnesota to the

The Timberwolves trailed by eight with 7:57 to play, and then outscored the Suns 24-6. Love, who got his first career triple-double at Utah on Saturday, was 10 for 22 from the field.

Rookie Shabazz Muhammad had a career-high 20 points and Corey Brewer added 18 for Minnesota.

Markieff Morris scored 24 and Gerald Green had 19 for Phoenix. Goran Dragic scored 16 but fouled out with 3:46 to play, the third time he's fouled out in his career and first this season. The Suns' P.J. Tucker grabbed a career-best 16 rebounds.

### Raptors 99, Cavaliers 93

In Cleveland, DeMar DeRozan scored 16 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, and the Raptors won for the sixth time in seven games.

DeRozan dunked on a baseline drive and added two free throws to give the Raptors a 94-91 lead with 1:23 remaining. The All-Star hit three more free throws in the final 27 seconds to put away

Kyrie Irving, who played 45 minutes and the entire second half because of Cleveland's depleted roster, had 25 points and nine assists. Cleveland has lost three straight after winning six in a row and fell 5½ games out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers again played without center Anderson Varejao (sore back) and guards Dion Waiters (hyperextended left knee) and C.J. Miles (sprained left ankle).

#### Wizards 115, Magic 106

In Washington, John Wall scored 27 points, and the Wizards survived their first game after Nene's latest injury.

Trevor Ariza added 22 points and Marcin Gortat had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who made 10 of 16 3-pointers and have won a season-high four in a row to move one game above .500. They also improved to 2-6 this season without Nene, who sprained the MCL in his left knee Sunday in a 96-83 win at Cleveland.

Victor Oladipo scored 26 points for the Magic, who tied a single-season franchise record by losing their 16th consecutive road game. They remain without leading scorer Arron Afflalo, who missed his second game with a sprained right ankle.



Sacramento Kings forward Derrick Williams, (13) tries to pass off against Houston Rockets guard James Harden during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday Feb. 25,

### LeBron expects to rejoin Heat lineup Thursday MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James James dispensed with the and he'll still look the same. er you definitely don't want."

ami Heat practice gym, cursing but grinning after missing another 3-point shot, then flopped to the hardwood and did a push-up as self-imposed punishment.

Teammates watched and laughed as the sequence repeated several times, a sure sign their MVP is feeling better.

James took part in noncontact drills Tuesday and said he should be able to rejoin the lineup Thursday against the New York Knicks. He missed Sunday's victory over the Chicago Bulls after breaking his nose in the previous game.

stood in the corner of the Mi-bandage he wore late last week That's why he's LeBron." and said his headaches have subsided. But he's not yet ready for contact drills and still in a little pain while the nose heals.

"Every day is better," he said. "I haven't been hit on it either. That definitely helps."

James may try out a new protective mask in practice Wednesday and will wear it

He did a lot of running and other conditioning Tuesday, worked with his teammates on offensive sets and shot baskets. How did he look?

"The same," Chris Bosh said. "He can break anything,

Sunday's game was only the second James has missed this season. The Heat improved to 2-0 without him, but he didn't enjoy watching from the bench.

"It was terrible," he said. "I was happy we got the win, but I hate sitting out."

He's not looking forward to wearing a mask, either. He has experience, because he broke his cheek while with the Cleveland Cavaliers 10 years ago and wore a mask then.

"It's a difficult challenge," James said. "It's like somebody constantly has a hand in your face. It's like an added defend-

the possibility of aggravating the injury by taking another blow to the face, James said he'll still drive to the basket.

"I won't change my game because of the mask," he said. "I'll probably be a little tentative when I first get out there, but I think I'll get used to it."

James said his nose is most bothersome early in the morning and late at night, but feels better during the day.

Does it hurt when he does the push-ups?

"Nah," he said with a laugh. "My arms hurt when I do push-ups."

### Torre: Banning home plate collisions not realistic



Chicago Cubs center fielder Junior Lake (21), left, and right fielder Nate Schierholtz (19) collide during spring training baseball practice, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Mesa, Ariz.



P E O -RIA, Ariz. Torre says

Major League Baseball's playing rules committee leaned toward banning all home plate collisions but concluded it would be unrealistic because contact between catchers and baserunners is sometimes unavoidable.

Torre, MLB's executive vice president for baseball operations, spoke Tuesday at San Diego's spring training facility before meeting with representatives from eight clubs training in Arizona. Torre was there to answer questions and address concerns regarding the collision rule, which was announced Monday, and expanded instant replay for umpires.

Torre said when it came to the collisions rule, he had to "put the uniform back on" because there is never a perfect play at the plate and throws can make contact unavoidable. Any rule change for 2014 required approval from the players' union, which negotiated under new head Tony Clark.

"The players' association had their concerns, too, based on the fact that catchers' ... instincts is telling them to do certain things," Torre said. "Tony Clark's concern was it would have been tough to get them use to a new rule in a short period of time. I think we both agreed on the fact we want to eliminate the vicious hit."

MLB could not have implemented the rule this year without approval from the players' association. In what both sides said was a one-year experiment, the rule allows collisions if the catcher has the ball and path to home plate, and if the catcher goes into the basepath to field a throw to the plate.

The new rule, 7.13, states "a runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate)." A runner violating the rule shall be declared out, even if the fielder drops the ball.

The umpire crew chief can use the new video-review system to determine whether the rule was violated.

Torre referenced the hit on Buster Posey that left the NL

MVP with broken bone in his lower left leg and three torn ligaments in his ankle in a May 2011 collision with the Marlins' Scott Cousins. That injury that helped intensify debate over plate collisions.

"At the time I talked to Bruce Bochy several times. and I said I don't see anything we can change," Torre explained. 'Well, over the last couple of years I've gotten letters from parents who have kids in the minor leagues, and we've seen some vicious hits is blocking the runner's direct in the minor leagues, and it's got to get your attention.

Posey said Tuesday he thought the rule change was positive because it should eliminate worry of a malicious hit.

"I've always said that the main thing is for everybody to be comfortable with it, that the catchers and runners are protected," Posey said.

Torre said there is an onus on baserunners to eliminate a mindset of wanting to separate a catcher from the ball.

"I think definitely the baserunner has to have a different resolve, so to speak, in rounding third or tagging up from third," Torre said.

### Rockies' Tulowitzki: Winning will end Jeter talk

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. I'm wearing a Rockies uni- manager Walt Weiss said. (**AP**) —Troy Tulowitzki grew up idolizing Derek Jeter. It's the reason he wears No. 2.

Now Tulowitzki hears daily chatter about possibly taking over for the retiring Jeter at shortstop in New York.

"I take it as an honor for someone to think of myself as someone that possibly could replace him," Tulowitzki said Tuesday.

That doesn't mean the three-time All-Star wants to leave Denver. It's just that he knows after four straight years out of the playoffs, after all the injuries that have sidelined him, this season could determine his future.

"I'd love to stay here my whole career," Tulowitzki said. "But I know if you lose, other teams may be calling or things might happen."

The 29-year-old Tulowitzki still has seven years left on a \$157.5 million contract that runs through the 2020 season. It's a figure that will weigh on the Rockies if they don't contend soon.

It's also a price tag the Yankees could absorb as they look to replace Jeter, who announced earlier this month he'll retire at the end of the season.

"I know that right now

form and my job is to prepare and try to have the best season that I can and we can as a team," Tulowitzki said. "I think if we play good baseball those rumors will go away. But I know if we don't, they won't go away."

Tulowitzki broke in with the Rockies at the perfect time. He played in a career-high 155 games and hit 24 home runs as a rookie in 2007 when Colorado reached the World Series. They were back in the postseason two years later when he slugged .552.

They haven't been to the playoffs since. And Tulowitzki has played in only 438 of a possible 648 over the past four seasons. There was a broken wrist, a serious groin injury and broken ribs.

When healthy, Tulowitzki is a feared hitter. He batted .312 with 25 home runs and 82 RBIs in 126 games

spring having finally entered camp healthy. He's one of the first players to arrive at the team's spring training complex each morning. He does extra stretching, extra mobility drills and has an extensive routine in hopes he can finally stay injury-free.

"He's in a much different place than he was a year ago, mentally, physically," Rockies

"I'm really excited for him this year," Weiss said. "I think he's one of the best players in all the game and I think you'll see that this year."

Tulowitzki also is taking on a much bigger leadership role. With first baseman Todd Helton in retirement after 17 seasons in Colorado, this is now Tulowitzki's team.

"If you look around the locker room, I've worn this uniform the longest of anybody here," he said. "But you can't proclaim yourself a leader and say, 'Hey, this is my club. You do as I say.' I think you go about your work and let guys follow."

When everyone is on the field, the Rockies boast an impressive lineup with Tulowitzki, reigning National League batting champ Michael Cuddyer, Carlos Gonzalez and newly acquired Justin Morneau.

But if the Rockies get off Tulowitzki is upbeat this to a bad start and aren't in contention at midseason, Tulowitzki knows he'll hear his name in trade talks.

> "For the organization, it is a critical year," he said. "We've had two last-place finishes in a row. Some of our key players have had some injuries. And we know being a mid-market team, that sometimes your window in a place gets short."

### Match Play future up in the air



**BEACH GAR-**DENS, (AP) -- During a 7 1/2-minute

chat with reporters on the Match Play Championship future, PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem used the word "change" only once when he said, "I wouldn't assume we're going to change at this point." On two occasions he said, "I wouldn't rule out anything."

Glad to get that cleared up. The future depends largely on whether - or how quickly - the tour can find a title sponsor to replace Accenture. A sponsor would have a lot of input on where it was played. While the players were not fond of Dove Mountain, Accenture loved being at The Ritz-Carlton.

Colombia remains a big part of the discussion. It's critical for golf to make a good first impression in the Olympics in 2016 - the IOC decides in 2017 whether to keep it on the program beyond 2020 - and getting South American fans acclimated to the highest level of golf wouldn't hurt.

The Match Play Championship hasn't left the U.S. since it went to Australia in 2001 and 28 players didn't show up. That was mainly because it was held so close to the holidays. Then again, there is concern a move out of the country would keep some players (most Americans) from going.

Thomas Bjorn noted the absence last week of Tiger Woods, Adam Scott and Phil Mickelson and said, "You've got to be careful that you don't put it out where more guys say no. It's a big deal that they're not here. If it goes to Colombia, you still get 90 percent of the guys. And you'll be missing a few.

"Tiger and Phil not here matter this week," he said. "Any World Golf Championship, if they're not teeing it up, loses the feel of a big event. The tour needs to speak to them."

The only hint Finchem offered was that the tour would not be inclined to take the Match Play to an existing market, citing La Costa (20 miles from Torrey Pines) as an example. Tucson is not out of the picture, though Dove

Mountain is most likely out. Finchem noted how such a large property kept down the energy (noise) level.

Finchem also said this would be a good time to "dust it off and see if there's a better way to do it" when asked about the format. A sponsor and TV might prefer a model where players are guaranteed at least a couple of days, and one plan getting the most attention is 36 holes of stroke play to qualify for match play.

He hopes to have a solution in the next month or so.

Meanwhile, U.S. Open champion Justin Rose has withdrawn from the Honda Classic to rest his right shoulder.

Rose first hurt his shoulder last August during The Barclays. While he played out the remainder of the year, it forced him to wait until the Northern Trust Open at Riviera two weeks ago to play for the first time.

Rose said physical therapy is helping the tendinitis in his right shoulder, but he felt that four weeks in a row of tournament golf would be too much.

He plans to play next week at the Cadillac Championship, where Rose is a past champion.

### Pacquiao starts sparring session for rematch vs Bradley



Manny pines — Pacquiao gave chief trainer Fred-

die Roach a preview of what lies ahead Tuesday, probing the capability of Lydell Rhodes in their first sparring session at Pacman's Wild Card Gym in General Santos City.

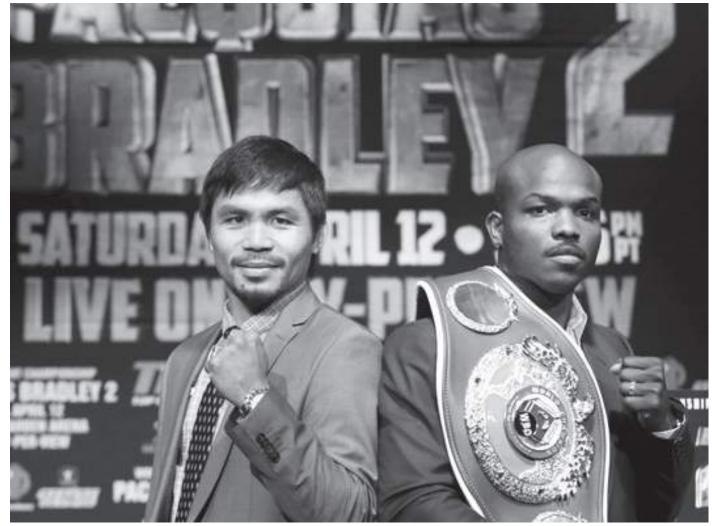
Already well-conditioned, Pacquiao chose to play it lightly against the unbeaten Rhodes (19-0 with nine knockouts) for four rounds and got Roach's nod of approval.

"Nothing has changed. Boss' (Pacquiao) speed and stamina are still there," said Roger Fernandez, a trusted assistant of Pacquiao, in Filipino.

"He may even be stronger now as he plays basketball daily."

Prior to the sparring session, Pacquiao did the mitts with Roach, who arrived in GenSan Monday morning from Manila and immediately tested the Fighter of the Decade's level of conditioning with 13 rounds of mitts work.

Also present at the airconditioned gym were Buboy Fernandez, who supervised Pacquiao's early conditioning regimen, and Michael Koncz,



Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Phillipines, left, poses for a photo with current WBO world welterweight champion Timothy Bradley of Indio, Calif., during a press conference Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in New York. The pair will face off in a title fight in Las Vegas, April 12, 2014.

### 5 MAKE

From Page 28

schedule in collegiate tournaments, Kim returned to Saipan to compete in the Tournament of Champions where she nailed her fourth straight Ladies Flight title and six overall. With her title defense in TOC, Kim was named NMASA Female Athlete of the Month in August.

Quinn took the December honors and eventually claimed the annual plum for his notable comeback in cycling. Quinn joined the 2013 Hell of the Mari-

The Commonwealth bets

capped their domination in the

regional tournament that also

featured players from Guam,

Palau, and Federated States

of Micronesia, by gaining the

maximum 12 slots on the North

anas Century Cycle Race less in Fiji, en route to winning both than a year after undergoing a double hip replacement surgery. It was the second time he went under the knife, but he still found ways to recover and join competitive races.

Lee was healthy all-season long, making her a force to reckon with in both local and regional tournaments. She never dropped a single set in the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships on Saipan, whipping Guam, Palau, and FSM players. She also had a perfect run in the pool play of the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships

Pacific Team. With this feat,

Race kept his promise, shaving

his head on the day the CNMI

secured the 12 slots on the North

squad that eventually competed

In Fiji, the CNMI players put

up another impressive perfor-

mance against qualifiers from

the favored West (Fiji, Kiribati,

in POJC in Fiji last year.

the girls U12 singles and doubles titles (with Tania Tan). With her outstanding showing last season, Lee got an invite to join the Junior ITF Touring Team that played in various tournaments in Australia early this year. The Garapan Elementary School student, who was NMASA's awardee in August, is also being considered to undergo an elite program for youth players in the Land Down Under.

Kimura won the NMASA

the annual award for students for his record-breaking swims in Australia and Guam and participation in the 15th FINA World Championships in Barcelona, Spain. The Grace Christian Academy student represented the CNMI in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney and set a new CNMI national record in the 200m backstroke. He also marked age group records in tournaments in Guam and had a personal best time in Barcelona.

Joining Kimura and the three other top athletes on the podium was Saiki, who steered Saipan International School to success in volleyball competitions both in the private and public school tournaments.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association vice president Gabriel White said during the nomination process that Saiki has built a volleyball farm at SIS, as she patiently and diligently teach and hone the student's skills. With her hard work, SIS is consistently considered as one of the strong contenders in indoor volleyball competitions. Saiki is also into beach volleyball and an active participant to various tournaments.

went to Fiji (3), Vanuatu, Solo-

mon Islands, American Samoa,

Kiribati, Palau, and Papua New

Guinea. It was the third straight

time that the CNMI clinched the

The group completed the tour-

nament by bringing home two

gold medals, seven silvers, and

three bronzes.

most Final Four seats in POJC.

Rhodes, a Timothy Bradley built-alike who claims to be faster than the unscathed World Boxing Organization welterweight champion, felt Pacquiao's power when he got tagged at the side of his body.

Pacquiao's adviser.

Pacquiao will try to regain the 147-pound crown from Bradley on April 12 at MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, the two fighters will undergo random, unannounced drug testing leading up to their anticipated rematch.

Nevada Athletic Commission chairman Francisco Aguilar announced the development on Saturday while Top Rank honcho Bob Arum said he would fund the cost of the rigorous and enhanced testing.

The series of tests will be handled by the World Antidoping Agency and will include carbon isotope ratio testing and isotope ratio mass spectrometry to detect exogenous testosterone.

It will also administered on fight day at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### **NBA STANDINGS**

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Boston	19	39 .328	131/2
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Chicago	30	26 .536	13
Detroit	23	34 .404	201/2
Cleveland	22	36 .379	22
Milwaukee	11	45 .196	32

#### **WESTERN** CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	40	16 .714	_
Houston	39	18 .684	11/2
Dallas	35	23 .603	6
Memphis	31	24 .564	81/2
Now Orloans	23	33 /11	17

#### **Northwest Division**

Oklahoma City	43	14 .754	_
Portland	39	18 .684	4
Minnesota	28	29 .491	15
Denver	25	31 .446	171/2
Utah	20	36 .357	<b>22</b> ½

#### **Pacific Division** I A Clinnars 39 20 661

in cuppors	0,	20 .001	
Golden State	35	22 .614	3
Phoenix	33	23 .589	41/2
Sacramento	20	37 .351	18
L.A. Lakers	19	38 .333	19

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

monthly top honors twice (January and April) and shared Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and East (Samoa,

American Samoa, and Tonga) squads and representatives from powerhouse New Caledonia. At the five-day tournament, the Commonwealth players bagged eight Final Four berths in the singles division and advanced in the finals of all six divisions in the doubles event.

These achievements surpassed the squad's performance in the 2011 and 2012 editions of POJC. The team also topped the 17-nation competition in terms of Final Four appearances, edging Tahiti, which gained seven semis slots. The nine remaining berths

the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame

Chong was considered as one mel School to championships

in both sport from three straight seasons (1975 to 1977).

She also represented the CNMI in the Micronesian Games (both basketball and volleyball) in three occasions (1990, 1994, and 1998) and suited up for the Commonwealth team that participated in the South Pacific Games in Western Samoa in 1983 and in New Caledonia in 1987.

As for Olopai, she was recognized as among the Top 3 pitchers in the CNMI during the late 60s to 70s. Barnes described her as an unhittable pitcher because of her smooth motion and speed. Olopai led the girls fast-pitch league in ERA and strikeouts.

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while, as Race talked about his accomplishments and contributions to CNMI sports.

White was one of the founders of the basketball association on Saipan and has been officiating games for more than 30 years. He has served as NMA-SA president since 2002 and was instrumental in the association's successful bid to take over the management and operation of the newly improved Oleai Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, Sakisat was also surprised with his selection.

"I did not expect to get this

honor early. It's a privilege and honor to be in the company of the great athletes and officials in the CNMI," said Sakisat.

Sakisat was enshrined to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding performance in both baseball and fastpitch and slow-pitch softball for the past three decades. In the fast-pitch softball, he was named MVP for six times, dominated every statistics in the league, and played multiple positions at the pitch. The San Roque resident, who helped the CNMI won a gold medal in the 1998 Micronesian Games in Palau, is also admired by his peers for his sportsmanship on and off the field.

Sakisat also took individual awards in baseball, winning the triples title (2008) and home runs (2005) and was named Pitcher of the Year (2007) and Golden Glove awardee (2003) in the Saipan Major League (now Saipan Baseball League). He also gained sportsmanship award in SML.

Based on the statistics gather by Barnes, chair of the NMA-SA's Selection of Hall of Fame Committee, Sakisat has a batting average of .405, which is fourth all-time in the SML and he also made it to the Top 10 in the triples, home runs, and slug percentage.

The two women enshrined to

did not make to the awards ceremony, as both are off-island. However, Lisua, who was Olopai's teammate in fast-pitch softball, accepted the award on behalf of the latter, while Barnes received Chong's trophy.

of the top volleyball and basketball players in the CNMI for two decades. She was the first-ever recipient of the NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award, getting the recognition in 1982. Chong was among the best players in interscholastic vollevball and basketball leagues on Saipan, leading Mount CarSAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 27

### NMASA Annual Sports Banquet

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.



Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, joins NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year Carol Lee and Kensuke Kimura.



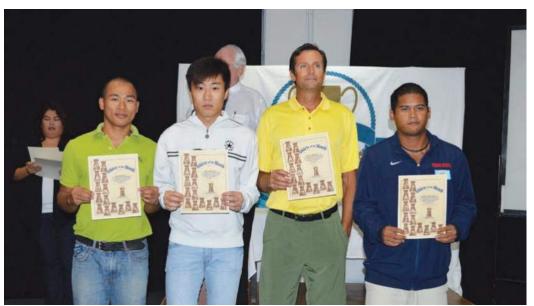
CNMI swimmers, from left, Kensuke Kimura, Angel Tan, Miku Tammy, and Kento Akimaru, are joined by Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh for a group photo.



Northern Marians Islands Cycling Federation's John Jones accepts the NMA-SA Male Athlete of the Year award on behalf of Russ Quinn.



Shirley Kim, right, accepts the NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award on behalf of daughter Leina. Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and special assistant for administration Esther Fleming presented the award.



The NMASA top male athlete of the month awardees, from left Nap Dizon, Joe Miller, Tyce Mister, and John Nekaifes show their certificates.



Kimiko McKagan smiles after receiving her December Female Athlete of the Month certificate.



The NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Month awardees pose with their certificates.



The NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month awardees show their certificates.



**28** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Saipan Tribune SPOITS



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# 5 make NMASA honor roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com

ive different sports were represented on the honor list in the 2013 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort.

Tennis's Carol Lee and swimming's Kensuke Kimura were named 2013 NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year, while cycling's Russ Quinn and golf's Leina Kim were selected 2013 NMASA Athletes of the Year, and volleyball's Mili Saki was chosen Coach of the Year.

Lee and Kimura were awarded hand-crafted wooden trophies and a prize package from awards sponsor Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Kim and Quinn missed the awards presentation as they are both off-island but sent representatives to the event to receive their trophies. Leina's mother Shirley, and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation official John Jones ac-

cepted the awards on behalf of the two winners.

Kim won her first Female Athlete of the Year plum after an outstanding debut with the Colorado State University-Pueblo in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, a collegiate athletic conference that participates in NCAA Division II. The 21-year-old golfer bagged both the Rookie and Golfer of the Year awards in the RMAC and was the lone player in the division to reach the Regional Championships. She recorded several first place finishes last season and made record scores in team and individual categories.

During a break from her busy **See 5 MAKE on Page 26** 





ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2013 NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year
Carol Lee and Kensuke Kimura,
left photo, and Coach of the Year
Mili Saiki, top, pose with their trophies during the NMASA Annual
Sports Banquet held last night
at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort

### Junior tennis players recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team is this year's recipient of the NMASA Team of the Year award.

The squad was composed of coach Jeff Race and players

Carol Lee, Tania Tan, Michael Ren, Robbie Schorr, Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Moris Villanueva, Chris Cajigan, Tommy Choi, Amami Sakano, Jake Lee, and Thea Minor. The team was handed the coveted award for turning the 2013 North Pacific Regional

Championships and the 2013 U18 age group, Rastguiy and Pacific Oceania Junior Championships into its stamping ground.

U18 age group, Rastguiy and Cajigan lorded it over the U15 division, and Ren and Carol Lee reigned supreme in the U12 cat-

Saipan hosted the North Regional in June last year with the Commonwealth junior players sweeping the singles crown, as Jake Lee and Minor ruled the

U18 age group, Rastguiy and Cajigan lorded it over the U15 division, and Ren and Carol Lee reigned supreme in the U12 category. Race wards then nearly bagged all the doubles championships, missing only the boys U15 doubles title.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach Jeff Race, second left, joins the CNMI Junior Tennis Team players for a group photo at the conclusion of the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

### White, Sakisat join CNMI Hall of Fame



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Hall of Famer, Class of 2014, Michael White, left, and Melvin Sakisat pose with their trophies at the conclusion of the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

### By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

REPORTER

No less than Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White led the Class of 2014 enshrined to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last night at the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort.

White was inducted to the elite group along with Melvin Sakisat, Bertha Chong, and Maggie Taitano-Olopai, joining the select circle of Jean and Bill

Sakovich, Kurt Barnes, Mike Villagomez, Jeff Race, Frank Castro, Tony Rogolifoi, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, Tino Olopai, and the late Jess Wabol and Irene Alpet.

"What a great honor to be recognized by the people you worked with. I was surprised with this award," said White, who was asked to leave his hosting chores in the event for a

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